



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

A Marist Brothers High School 1958



Student Handbook 2026-2027

Christopher Columbus High School

3000 SW 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33165

Telephone: (305) 223-5650, FAX: (305) 480-4057

Website: www.columbushs.com

Christopher Columbus High School

Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Requirement

Students and Parents/Legal Guardians are required to review and acknowledge receipt of the Christopher Columbus High School Parent-Student Handbook. This acknowledgment shall be completed electronically through the MyCCHS Parent Portal or through another electronic platform designated by the school.

Parent and Student Acknowledgment

By electronically acknowledging receipt of the Parent-Student Handbook, the undersigned Parent/Legal Guardian and Student acknowledge and agree to the following:

Receipt and Review of Handbook

I/We acknowledge receipt of the Christopher Columbus High School Parent-Student Handbook and understand that it contains important information regarding school policies, procedures, expectations, student conduct, disciplinary standards, and parent responsibilities.

Understanding of School Policies

I/We understand that students are expected to comply with all school rules, policies, procedures, and expectations contained in the Handbook, as well as any additional policies communicated by the school during the academic year.

Understanding of Disciplinary Consequences

I/We understand that violations of school rules, policies, procedures, or expectations may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to detention, suspension, disciplinary probation, loss of privileges, a request to withdraw, expulsion, or other consequences deemed appropriate by the Administration.

Commitment to Cooperation

I/We agree to cooperate with Christopher Columbus High School in the implementation and enforcement of all school policies and procedures and to support the school's efforts to maintain a safe, orderly, and faith-centered educational environment.

This acknowledgment includes, but is not limited to, policies regarding attendance, student conduct, dress code, technology use, driving and parking, athletics, extracurricular activities, and all other provisions contained within the Parent-Student Handbook.

Acknowledgment of Releases and Participation Requirements

I/We acknowledge that participation in certain activities may require compliance with additional policies, releases, waivers, acknowledgments, and participation requirements contained within the Handbook, including but not limited to:

- Participation in School Athletics or Organizations (Section 7.2);
- School-Sponsored Events (Section 7.4); and
- General Release and Waiver of Liability for School-Affiliated Activities (Section 7.7).

Administrative Authority

I/We understand and acknowledge that Christopher Columbus High School reserves the right to interpret, apply, modify, revise, suspend, or discontinue policies, procedures, rules, and regulations when deemed necessary and appropriate.

I/We further acknowledge that the Administration retains final authority regarding the interpretation and enforcement of all school policies, procedures, expectations, and disciplinary matters.

Electronic Acknowledgment

By electronically acknowledging receipt of the Parent-Student Handbook, I/We affirm that I/We have received the Handbook, understand its contents, and agree to abide by and support the policies, procedures, expectations, and requirements contained therein.

Electronic acknowledgment by a Parent/Legal Guardian and Student shall have the same force and effect as a handwritten signature.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Parent-Student Handbook Acknowledgement Form.....	2
TOP 10 THINGS EVERY EXPLORER MUST KNOW.....	8
1. SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY.....	9
1.1 MISSION STATEMENT.....	9
1.2 STUDENT LEARNING GOALS.....	10
1.3 PARENT & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP.....	10
1.4 STUDENT LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION.....	10
1.5 SCHOOL INSIGNIA.....	11
2. FAITH & MISSION.....	11
3. ACADEMICS.....	12
3.1 ACADEMIC LEVELS AND GROUPINGS.....	12
3.2 THE MAS FAMILY PROGRAM - SCHOLARS & HONORS.....	12
3.4 STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES.....	14
3.5 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM.....	15
3.6 DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.....	15
3.7 OFF-CAMPUS AND ONLINE COURSES.....	15
3.8 COURSE SELECTION AND SCHEDULE CHANGES.....	16
3.9 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.....	16
3.10 GRADING.....	16
3.11 COURSE FAILURES AND ACADEMIC PROBATION.....	18
3.12 HONOR ROLL.....	19
3.13 HONOR SOCIETIES.....	19
3.14 FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.....	20
3.15 GRADUATION CEREMONY.....	21
4. SCHOOL COUNSELING, STUDENT WELLNESS, AND COLLEGE & CAREER GUIDANCE.....	22
5. GENERAL SCHOOL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION.....	23
5.1 THE SCHOOL DAY.....	23
5.2 TRAFFIC PROCEDURES, DRIVING ON CAMPUS AND PARKING.....	23
5.3 ATTENDANCE, LATENESS, AND EARLY DISMISSAL.....	25
5.4 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS.....	28
5.5 STUDENT INFORMATION AND FERPA RIGHTS.....	29
5.6 STUDENT I.D. CARDS.....	29
5.8 TEXTBOOKS.....	30
5.9 PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY.....	30
5.10 LOST AND FOUND.....	30
5.11 PROTOCOL FOR ANONYMOUS MESSAGES.....	30
5.12 MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS.....	31
5.13 MEDICATION.....	31

5.14 STUDENT CONCUSSION ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS.....	31
5.15 PARENTAL COOPERATION.....	32
5.16 PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO, AND MEDIA RELEASE.....	33
5.17 CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS.....	33
5.18 TESTIFYING IN DIVORCE, CUSTODY, OR PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCEEDINGS.....	34
5.19 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE.....	34
5.20 TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.....	35
5.21 STUDENT HARDWARE POLICY.....	35
5.22 FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS.....	35
6. STUDENT CONDUCT.....	38
6.1 DRESS CODE.....	38
6.2 HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY.....	40
6.3 DRUG, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL POLICY.....	41
6.4 ANTI-BULLYING POLICY.....	43
6.5 ANONYMOUS TIPLINE.....	45
6.6 WEAPONS POLICY.....	45
6.7 THREAT OF VIOLENCE POLICY.....	45
6.8 PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION.....	46
6.9 USE OF CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES.....	46
6.10 TECHNOLOGY & RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY.....	47
6.11 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI.....	48
6.12 ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY POLICY.....	49
6.13 DISCIPLINARY PHILOSOPHY.....	50
6.14 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.....	50
7. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.....	52
7.1 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS.....	52
7.2 ATHLETICS.....	53
7.3 NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS (NIL).....	54
7.4 SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS.....	55
7.5 PARENTS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION.....	55
7.6 FUNDRAISING.....	55

Explorer Quick Reference Guide

Who Do I Contact?

Need assistance? Use this guide to quickly locate the office or staff member best equipped to help you. For complete policies and procedures, please refer to the appropriate section of this handbook.

I NEED HELP WITH...	WHO CAN HELP?	WHERE TO GO	HOW TO CONTACT	NOTES
 ACADEMIC CONCERN Course difficulty, grades, assignments, academic planning	ACADEMIC DEAN Dr. Juan Vila  jvila@columbushs.com  Ext. 2265	 Academic Office (1st Floor) MBL Building	 jvila@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2265	- Your first resource for academic support. - We can help create a plan for your academic success.
 ATTENDANCE Absences, tardies, excused absences, attendance recovery	ATTENDANCE COORDINATOR Ms. Ana Fernandez  attendance@columbushs.com  Ext. 2214	 Attendance Office (Main Building) MBL Building	 attendance@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2214	- Report absences daily before 9:00 AM. - View attendance and receive updates in OnCampus.
 DISCIPLINE Behavior concerns, discipline referrals, code of conduct	DEAN OF STUDENTS Mr. Robert Linfors Mr. Alex Trujillo  deanofstudents@columbushs.com 305-223-5650 Ext. 2215 (Linfors) / Ext. 2287 (Trujillo)	 Dean of Students Office (Main Building) MBL Building	 deanofstudents@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2215 / 2287	- The Dean of Students is your first contact for all discipline matters. - See the Discipline Policy in this handbook.
 SCHOOL COUNSELING, STUDENT WELLNESS, AND COLLEGE & CAREER GUIDANCE Emotional support, wellness, counseling, college & career planning	DIRECTOR Iris Martinez  imartinez@columbushs.com  Ext. 2280	 Counseling Office (Main Building) MBL Building	 imartinez@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2280	- We are here to listen and help. - All conversations are confidential within the limits of the law.
 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT Login issues, devices, apps, Wi-Fi, and IT-related needs	TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT Carla Bates  cbates@columbushs.com  Ext. 2234	 Tech Office (3rd Floor) MAS Building	 cbates@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2234	Contact for tech support and assistance with devices, apps, and network access.
 STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES Accommodations, 504 plans, academic support services	COORDINATOR Denise Ramirez  dramirez@columbushs.com  Ext. 2296	 Academic Office (1st Floor) MBL Building	 dramirez@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2296	- Support for students with documented needs. - We work collaboratively to ensure access and success.
 THE MAS FAMILY PROGRAM – SCHOLARS & HONORS Scholars & Honors program support, academic enrichment	DIRECTOR Sylvie Galvez-Cuesta  sgalvez-cuesta@columbushs.com  Ext. 2243	 Scholars & Honors Office (3rd Floor) MAS Building (Library)	 sgalvez-cuesta@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2243	- Support for Scholars & Honors students and program inquiries. - Enrichment and academic excellence.
 ATHLETICS Tryouts, schedules, eligibility, athletic information	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Chris McKeon  cmckeon@columbushs.com 305-223-5650 Ext. 2238	 Athletics Main Office (1st Floor) MBL Building	 cmckeon@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2238	Contact for athletic programs, eligibility, schedules, and general athletics information.
 STRENGTH & CONDITIONING Strength training, conditioning programs, athletic performance	STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH Kerry Thompson  kthompson@columbushs.com 305-223-5650 Ext. 2286	 Fitness Center (Athletic Complex)	 kthompson@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2286	Contact for strength & conditioning programs and athletic performance support.
 WELLNESS CENTER Health & wellness resources, injury support, and overall well-being	WELLNESS DIRECTOR Joshua Cantor  jcantor@columbushs.com 305-223-5650 Ext. 2285	 Wellness Center (Athletic Complex)	 jcantor@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2285	Contact for health & wellness resources, injury support, and overall well-being.
 THE DESMOND FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER Academic support, tutoring, study skills, student success resources	DIRECTOR Beatriz Vinson  bvinson@columbushs.com  Ext. 2231	 Desmond Family Success Center (3rd Floor) L-Building	 bvinson@columbushs.com  305-223-5650 Ext. 2631	- Personalized academic support and tutoring. - Resources for student success and achievement.
 WE ARE A COMMUNITY. No matter the challenge, you are not alone. Reach out early and let us help you find the right support.			FAITH IN ACTION. We support your mind, body, and spirit.	
 NEED IMMEDIATE HELP? Please contact the Main Office at 305-223-5650.			RESOURCES ONLINE Visit columbushs.com for full policies, procedures, and additional resources.	

Welcome Explorers!

Welcome to Christopher Columbus High School. We are honored to partner with our students and families in providing a faith-filled, academically challenging, and student-centered educational experience rooted in the Marist tradition.

This Parent-Student Handbook has been prepared to provide important information regarding the policies, procedures, expectations, programs, and resources of Christopher Columbus High School. Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to read the Handbook carefully and retain it for future reference.

The policies, procedures, expectations, and standards contained in this Parent-Student Handbook govern student enrollment and participation at Christopher Columbus High School. Students and parents/guardians are expected to review, understand, and comply with the provisions contained herein, as well as any additional policies, procedures, or directives communicated by the school during the academic year.

While students and parents/guardians may be required to acknowledge receipt of and agreement to certain policies contained in this Handbook, this Handbook is not intended to create a contractual relationship between the school and any student, parent/guardian, or other person.

Christopher Columbus High School reserves the right to interpret, apply, modify, suspend, revise, or discontinue any policy, procedure, program, practice, or requirement contained in this Handbook at any time when deemed necessary and appropriate. Continued enrollment and participation at Christopher Columbus High School are conditioned upon compliance with the school's policies, procedures, expectations, and standards of conduct.

The Board of Trustees appoints a local School Board of limited jurisdiction to assist in the governance of the school. The School Board is advisory in nature, is not the ownership board of Christopher Columbus High School, and is not authorized to enter into contracts or otherwise bind the school.

We look forward to working together to support the academic, spiritual, personal, and leadership development of every Explorer.



TOP 10 THINGS EVERY EXPLORER MUST KNOW

1. Your Faith Matters

Christopher Columbus High School is a Catholic, Marist school. Students are expected to participate respectfully in school prayer, liturgies, retreats, service opportunities, and other faith-based programs and activities that are an integral part of the Columbus experience.

2. Be Respectful

Treat all students, faculty, staff, parents, visitors, and guests with dignity and respect at all times, both on and off campus.

3. Academic Integrity Is Expected

Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence, and all other forms of academic dishonesty are serious violations and may result in disciplinary action.

4. Attendance Matters

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to student success. Students are expected to be present, prepared, and engaged in all classes.

5. Follow the Dress Code

Students must be in proper uniform and maintain appropriate grooming and appearance standards throughout the school day.

6. Use Technology Responsibly

Cell phones, electronic devices, artificial intelligence tools, social media, and school technology must be used responsibly and in accordance with school policies.

7. Drug, Alcohol, and Nicotine Use Is Prohibited

The use, possession, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs, alcohol, nicotine products, vaping devices, or related paraphernalia is strictly prohibited and may result in serious disciplinary action.

8. Think Before You Post

Student conduct on social media, messaging platforms, artificial intelligence platforms, and other electronic communications may be subject to school discipline when it substantially affects the school community or the mission of Christopher Columbus High School.

9. Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

Every Explorer plays a role in maintaining a safe, respectful, and supportive school community. Report threats, bullying, harassment, dangerous behavior, or other safety concerns to a teacher, counselor, dean, or administrator. Students are encouraged to use the Columbus Tip Line to report concerns and help protect the safety and well-being of our community.

10. Represent Columbus with Pride

Whether on campus, at school events, online, or in the community, students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the mission, values, and reputation of Christopher Columbus High School.

1. SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Founded in 1958, Christopher Columbus High School is a Catholic, college-preparatory school sponsored by the Marist Brothers. The school is dedicated to forming young men of faith, character, leadership, and service through a commitment to academic excellence, the values of Catholic education, and the distinctive spirit and mission of the Marist tradition.

Christopher Columbus High School seeks to educate the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—by fostering intellectual growth, spiritual development, personal responsibility, and a commitment to serving others. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the example of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the school encourages students to become faith-filled leaders who positively impact their communities and the world.

Christopher Columbus High School is accredited by Cognia and maintains membership or affiliation with professional educational organizations, including the Marist Secondary Education Association (MSEA), the Archdiocese of Miami, the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling (SACAC), and the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

Christopher Columbus High School complies with applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, or national origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, or other school-administered programs.

The school is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in employment practices on the basis of race, color, disability, age, sex, or national origin, except as permitted by law and consistent with its religious mission and Catholic identity.

1.1 MISSION STATEMENT

Brotherhood, Faith, and Scholarship define the Marist Brothers Catholic education at Christopher Columbus High School. By making Jesus Christ known and loved and creating an inspiring academic and extracurricular environment, we prepare young men for higher learning and a life-long commitment to leadership and service through Gospel and Marist values.

What do we mean?

At Christopher Columbus High School, our mission is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Marist vision of St. Marcellin Champagnat. We seek to make Jesus Christ known and loved by helping students grow in faith, character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

A Marist education forms the whole person. We strive to help students develop their minds, strengthen their character, deepen their relationship with God, and recognize their responsibility to serve others, especially those most in need.

We believe students are called to become good Christians and virtuous citizens. This means living with integrity, respecting the dignity of every person, seeking the common good, caring for God's creation, and making choices rooted in Gospel and Marist values.

Columbus is also a community. Students, teachers, staff, parents, alumni, and friends work together as part of a larger Marist family. We support one another, hold each other accountable, and seek to create a school culture marked by respect, fairness, justice, transparency, and brotherhood.

1.2 STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

Christopher Columbus High School seeks to develop young men who are prepared to lead lives of faith, character, scholarship, and service. Through the school's academic, spiritual, extracurricular, and service-learning programs, students are expected to grow in the following areas:

- **Faith and Values:** Demonstrate an understanding of Catholic and Marist values and strive to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Character and Responsibility:** Exhibit honesty, integrity, self-discipline, accountability, and respect for others in their words and actions.
- **Academic Excellence:** Pursue high academic standards, produce quality work, and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and beyond.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Apply inquiry, analysis, creativity, and sound judgment to address challenges and make informed decisions.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** Communicate effectively, work collaboratively with others, and contribute positively to group efforts.
- **Technology and Innovation:** Utilize technology, digital resources, and emerging tools responsibly, ethically, and effectively to support learning.
- **Service and Leadership:** Recognize the importance of serving others and demonstrate leadership through meaningful participation in school, Church, and community activities.
- **Global Awareness and Citizenship:** Respect the dignity of every person, appreciate cultural diversity, and act as responsible citizens who contribute positively to their local, national, and global communities.

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to providing students with the opportunities, guidance, and support necessary to achieve these goals and to continue growing as lifelong learners and faith-filled leaders.

1.3 PARENT & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Christopher Columbus High School believes education is most successful when students, parents, and school personnel work collaboratively. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their son's educational journey through communication, involvement, and partnership with the school community.

The school values open communication, mutual respect, and shared responsibility in supporting the academic, spiritual, social, and personal development of each student. Through this partnership, students are best positioned to grow as young men of faith, character, scholarship, and service.

1.4 STUDENT LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Christopher Columbus High School believes that leadership is developed through active participation in the life of the school. Students are encouraged to contribute their ideas, talents, and perspectives in ways that strengthen the school community and advance its mission.

Through organizations such as the Student Activity Committee (S.A.C.), clubs, honor societies, athletic teams, retreats, service programs, and other leadership opportunities, students are invited to take an active role in shaping the student experience while contributing to the culture of Brotherhood, Faith, and Scholarship that defines Christopher Columbus High School.

The school values constructive student feedback and regularly seeks student input regarding school programs, activities, traditions, and campus life. While final decisions regarding school policies and operations rest with the Administration, student perspectives are considered an important part of the decision-making process.

In keeping with the Marist tradition, leadership at Christopher Columbus High School is understood as service to others. Students are expected to exercise leadership with integrity, respect, responsibility, and a commitment to the common good.

1.5 SCHOOL INSIGNIA

The Christopher Columbus High School seal reflects the school's Catholic, Marist, academic, and Explorer traditions. The four quadrants of the seal include the Marist "M," representing Mary, Our Blessed Mother; an anchor symbolizing hope; a book and compass representing knowledge, learning, and direction; and an explorer's vessel representing the school mascot, the Explorer.

Two Florida palm trees flank the seal. At the base of the seal appears the school's identity and motto: **Marist, Adelante.**

The official school colors are navy blue, red, gray and white.



2. FAITH & MISSION

The [Office of Faith & Mission](#) fosters the spiritual growth of every student through prayer, retreats, liturgies, service opportunities, Marist Youth, and 1:1 spiritual accompaniment. Each grade level is supported by a Campus Minister who meets individually with students to discuss their relationship with God, prayer life, and personal faith journey.

The school day begins and ends with prayer, and each class includes a prayer or reflection. School liturgies are celebrated throughout the year, with students serving as Eucharistic Ministers and in other leadership roles. Mass is offered at 7:10 a.m. in the Genevieve Abraham Chapel, which remains open throughout the day for prayer and reflection. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available to all students multiple times each year.

Students are encouraged to deepen their faith through participation in Peer Ministry, which helps lead retreats, prayer experiences, and other faith-centered activities. Students may also participate in national Marist Youth programs, including the summer Leadership Camp and Mission Conference in Esopus, New York, where they gather with Marist students from across the Province.

For more information, students and families may contact the Director of Faith & Mission.

3. ACADEMICS

3.1 ACADEMIC LEVELS AND GROUPINGS

Columbus Explorers are selected based on the school's Entrance Exam results and past academic performance. Acceptance to any specific programs of studies at Columbus is contingent on a review of academic and discipline history and successful completion of the previous grade, which may be graduation from middle school or the successful completion of all subjects in the previous grade. Students who do not complete previous studies or graduate from middle school forfeit their acceptance into Columbus.

Columbus High School offers a dynamic, standards-based curriculum tailored to meet students at their current academic level. Courses are grouped by ability to ensure appropriate rigor and support. These groupings include:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Dual Enrollment
- Honors
- Accelerated
- College Preparatory

Students are not confined to a single grouping within a given year or throughout their high school experience. Placement is re-evaluated regularly and may shift based on academic performance, motivation, and teacher input. This approach fosters personalized growth and enables students to progress according to their demonstrated readiness, achievement, and potential.

3.2 THE MAS FAMILY PROGRAM - SCHOLARS & HONORS

The [Mas Family Program](#) is designed to provide highly motivated and academically talented students with a rigorous and enriched educational experience that challenges them to excel in scholarship, leadership, service, and personal growth.

Students participating in the Mas Family Program engage in an advanced course of study that may include Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and Dual Enrollment coursework, as well as opportunities for intellectual exploration beyond the traditional classroom.

Program opportunities may include:

- Independent study and research projects;
- Summer enrichment programs;
- Internships and career exploration experiences;
- Special academic, cultural, and leadership enrichment activities; and
- Other opportunities designed to promote advanced learning and academic excellence.

Admission and Eligibility

Admission to the Mas Family Program is competitive and based upon a holistic review of a student's academic performance, demonstrated potential, character, and commitment to academic excellence.

Incoming Freshmen may be considered based upon:

- Entrance examination results;
- Seventh and eighth grade academic performance;
- Teacher and school recommendations; and
- Other factors deemed relevant by the Admissions Committee.

Current Ninth and Tenth Grade Students may be eligible for consideration if they:

- Maintain an Honors-level core academic course load;
- Earn no grade lower than a B in any Mas-designated course;
- Maintain a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.6; and
- Demonstrate exemplary conduct and citizenship.

Continued participation in the Mas Family Program is contingent upon maintaining the academic, behavioral, and participation standards established by the school.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration and Mas Family Program Team reserve the right to determine admission, eligibility, continued participation, academic requirements, course placement, program expectations, and student standing within the Mas Family Program. Decisions shall be based on the individual needs, performance, conduct, and circumstances of each student, as well as the educational goals and resources of the program.

3.3 THE DESMOND FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

The [Desmond Family Success Center](#) supports the diverse academic, social, emotional, and personal development needs of students through comprehensive services designed to promote success both inside and outside the classroom.

The Center provides individualized support and enrichment opportunities that encourage students to maximize their academic potential, strengthen executive functioning skills, develop leadership abilities, and actively engage in the life of the school community.

The mission of the Desmond Family Success Center is to empower every student to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually while fostering the skills, confidence, and resilience necessary for lifelong success.

The Desmond Team

The Desmond Family Success Center is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of professionals who work collaboratively to support student success. The Desmond Team may include Learning Specialists, school counselors, and other school professionals who assist in addressing the academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and personal development needs of students.

Learning Support Services

Learning Specialists work collaboratively with students, families, counselors, teachers, and administrators to support student success. Services may include:

- Academic coaching and study strategies;
- Executive functioning and organizational support;
- Coordination of approved academic accommodations and support plans;
- Collaboration with faculty and families regarding student progress; and,
- Individualized interventions designed to promote student growth and achievement.

Core Programs and Opportunities

Students may have access to the following programs, services, and opportunities through the Desmond Family Success Center:

- Tutoring and academic support services;
- Leadership development workshops;

- Personal and social development programs;
- Enrichment activities and special events;
- Guest speakers and educational presentations;
- Faith and Mission retreats;
- Clubs, athletics, and extracurricular opportunities; and,
- Exclusive service-learning experiences available to Center participants.

Admission and Participation

The Desmond Family Success Center serves the broader Christopher Columbus High School community by providing academic, social, emotional, and student-support resources that are available to all students as appropriate.

In addition, the Center maintains a specialized cohort of students who receive individualized support services, accommodations, interventions, and ongoing case management through the Desmond Family Success Center. Placement within the specialized Desmond cohort is determined by the school through a holistic review of each student's academic, social, emotional, and support needs, as well as the availability of program resources.

Factors that may be considered include:

- Entrance examination results;
- Academic records and report cards;
- Standardized testing data;
- Summer school performance and recommendations;
- Admissions Committee recommendations;
- Administrative recommendations;
- Participation in applicable financial assistance programs; and,
- Other information deemed relevant by the school.

The Administration and Desmond Team reserve the right to determine eligibility for the specialized Desmond cohort, participation requirements, accommodations, support services, interventions, and continued participation based on the individual needs of the student and the resources available.

Regardless of cohort status, all students may access Desmond Family Success Center resources, programs, workshops, and support services made available by the school.

3.4 STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to ensuring an equitable learning environment for all students. While the school does not modify the curriculum, students with a documented disability may be eligible for [accommodations](#).

Parents or guardians seeking accommodations for a student must provide a current Psychoeducational Evaluation issued by a licensed psychologist and/or a public school-issued Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Supporting documentation should generally be dated within the previous three years unless otherwise approved by the school.

While the school will review Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Section 504 Plans, and other supporting documentation, Christopher Columbus High School is not required to implement accommodations, services, or modifications provided by a public school. Accommodations approved by the school will be outlined in the student's School Accommodation Plan.

The Psychoeducational Evaluation submitted to the school must:

- State the specific disability;

- Be current (completed within the last three years);
- Include relevant educational, developmental, and medical history;
- Describe the comprehensive testing and results used to determine the diagnosis;
- Outline the student's functional limitations;
- Specify the recommended accommodations related to the diagnosed disability;
- Include the professional credentials of the evaluator.

The Test Accommodations Coordinator, in consultation with the Academic Dean, will review all submitted documentation to determine eligibility and need.

The submission of documentation does not guarantee the approval of all requested accommodations. Accommodations will be determined by the school based on the student's documented needs, the recommendations contained in the evaluation, and the educational programs and resources available at Christopher Columbus High School.

If approved, a School Accommodation Plan will be developed and shared with the student's teachers. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with his teachers regarding approved accommodations and to make appropriate arrangements for accommodations requiring advance planning, including extended testing time and alternative testing arrangements.

Administrative Discretion

The Test Accommodations Coordinator, Academic Dean, and Administration reserve the right to determine eligibility for accommodations, approve or deny requested accommodations, require updated documentation, modify accommodation plans, and determine the appropriate implementation of accommodations based on the student's documented needs and the resources available to the school.

3.5 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM

CCHS offers a comprehensive and challenging AP curriculum, with courses offered in the disciplines of arts, English, history and social science, math and computer science, business, the sciences, and world languages and culture. A complete listing of AP Courses is available on the school website under AP & Dual Enrollment Classes. Registering for Advanced Placement and Honors courses requires an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher and teacher recommendation.

3.6 DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

CCHS, in collaboration with Florida International University, St. Thomas University, Barry University, Doral College, Marymount University and Miami Dade College, has an extensive Dual Enrollment program offering college credit to qualifying students. A complete listing of AP Courses is available on the school website under AP & Dual Enrollment Classes. Many universities and colleges in the United States may accept these credits. Students electing to participate in a dual-enrollment course must meet the following requirements:

1. Have a cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher;
2. Have qualifying test scores;
3. Complete all registration paperwork within the published deadlines and pay any applicable course fees each semester.

Once a student is enrolled in a College Dual Enrollment course, he cannot withdraw for difficulty or low grades. To do so would result in a "W" on his college transcript, which then turns into an "F". This would affect his future College GPA.

3.7 OFF-CAMPUS AND ONLINE COURSES

Students can strengthen their academic credentials by completing additional coursework through

off-campus and online courses to prepare for college admission. Throughout their high school career, students may request permission to enroll in up to 4 credits via off-campus Dual Enrollment College Programs or online classes through the Florida Virtual School. These courses supplement, not replace, CCHS graduation requirements. Grades earned through Florida Virtual School and dual enrollment may become part of the students' permanent high school and college records. Before registering for classes, request forms must be completed and signed by both students and parents and submitted to the Academic Dean for approval.

3.8 COURSE SELECTION AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

Course selection takes place during the second semester of the school year. Students are encouraged to carefully consider their course selections and seek guidance from counselors, teachers, and parents throughout the process. Final course placement is determined using multiple factors, including teacher recommendations, assessment data, academic performance, and parent and student input. The goal is to place each student in courses that maximize academic growth and success.

Because significant planning and scheduling are based on student course requests, changes are limited once the course selection process has concluded. Students may request schedule changes during the first five (5) school days of each semester. After this deadline, no schedule changes will be permitted unless initiated by a teacher and approved by the Academic Dean.

3.9 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A Christopher Columbus High School diploma is awarded to a student who satisfactorily completes all high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the State Board of Education, the Archdiocese of Miami, and the Marist Brothers.

Twenty-eight and a half credits and a cumulative unweighted **grade point average (GPA) of 2.0** are required for graduation. These credits must be completed during the four years of high school and include 4 in English, 4 in Mathematics (Algebra 1 level and above), 3 in Social Studies, 4 in Theology, 3 in Science, 2 in a Foreign Language, 1 in Personal Fitness and Physical Education, 1 in Communications Methodology, and 0.5 credits in each of the following: Visual or Performing Arts, Personal and Family Finance, and an online course.

Before graduation, Christopher Columbus High School students must complete **at least 100 hours** of qualified volunteer service. We strongly encourage students to fulfill this requirement incrementally over their four-year CCHS career by performing at least 25 hours of service each school year. Complete information about the service graduation requirement is published on the Christopher Columbus High School website. The webpage includes guidelines governing acceptable service hours, procedures for documenting service hours for credit, and deadlines for submitting service-hours documents. It is the responsibility of each Christopher Columbus student to understand and conform to these requirements and procedures if he expects to receive credit for his service hours.

Following graduation, no diplomas, records or transcripts will be released for any student who has not fulfilled the Christian Service graduation requirement. These documents will be held until the student fulfills this requirement.

3.10 GRADING

Grading Scale and Grade Point Average (GPA)

The marking system is based on letter grades. D is the lowest passing grade. The values assigned to letter grades determine a student's grade point average (GPA). This average is used to determine Honor Roll and Academic Probation standings. Grades earned in all courses, whether ½-credit or full-credit, are included in the calculation of a student's grade point average (GPA); however, courses completed with a Pass (P) earn academic credit but are not included in GPA calculations.

Grade Point Average Table					
Range	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP	Florida**
97-98-99-100	A+	4.33	5.33	6.33	4.00
90-96	A	4.00	5.00	6.00	4.00
87-88-89	B+	3.33	4.33	5.33	3.00
80-86	B	3.00	4.00	5.00	3.00
77-78-79	C+	2.33	3.33	4.33	2.00
70-76	C	2.00	3.00	4.00	2.00
60-69	D	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Less than 60	F	.00	.00	.00	.00

**The Florida GPA is used to report to the State of Florida about graduation, athletic eligibility, and Florida Bright Futures requirements.

Quality point average is cumulative and weighted to reflect the course's difficulty level. Honor courses are given an additional quality point for grades A+ through C, and AP courses are given two additional quality points for grades A+ through C.

Assessments and Final Examinations:

Columbus High School requires quarterly and end-of-course assessments in all courses to monitor student growth and provide teachers with feedback for adjusting the learning process. The **quarterly assessments will be administered during the last week in the first three-quarters of year-long courses** and the first quarter of semester courses. The Quarterly assessment format should replicate how students have learned the content or mastered skills, with the potential for progressively higher-order application at higher curriculum levels. **End-of-course assessments (final exams) are also required in the semester and year-long courses for 9th to 11th-grade students. Students are required to take their End of Course assessments at the scheduled times.** Rescheduling final examinations is permitted for students when justified by illness or for certain emergencies. Requests to reschedule a final examination must be made and approved by the Academic Dean two weeks before the scheduled exam. The student must see the Academic Dean if he has a question or needs to reschedule an examination. A fee may be charged to cover the costs of monitoring a rescheduled exam. A student who misses the End-of-Course Assessment may not be allowed to make up an exam and may receive an "F" for the course unless the need for hospitalization is documented before the start of the exam.

Final Examination Exemptions

Students may be exempt from the End of Course assessment in year-long courses if they have no grade lower than an A in the four marking periods. The End of Course assessment (final exam) grade for exempt students will be the average of the third and fourth quarters. There are no **exemptions** for the End of Course assessment in semester courses or the quarterly assessments, regardless of the grades received in the marking period.

A student who receives less than 50% on his End-of-Course assessment shows no mastery of the subject and may be given a final grade of "F" for the course regardless of his marking period grades. **Cheating on an End of Course assessment (final exam) may warrant an automatic "F" for the year** (see section ahead on "Cheating and Plagiarism/Academic Honor Code").

Advanced Placement Courses

Students in an AP level course are required to take the AP Exam administered by the College Board in May. **Students who do not take the AP exam and do not attend the AP exam review sessions may only receive honors level credit for the course instead of the AP level credit (see Grade Point Average Table for comparison). Additionally, students averaging less than a C for an AP course will be required to take a Columbus final exam.**

Final Grade Calculation

The **final grade** in a subject is based on the following: for one-credit courses, each marking period grade represents 22.5% and the End of Course (final exam) grade represents 10%; for half-credit (0.5) courses, each marking period grade represents 45% and the final exam grade represents 10%. Quarterly assessments are worth 10% of the student's quarter grade and, as such, are not featured separately.

The cumulative grade point average (GPA) appears on report cards and reflects points earned in completed courses. The GPA is determined as follows: each letter grade in the final column is converted to a numeric equivalent using the Grade Point Table (above). The sum of these points represents the total points earned, then divided by the total credits attempted. Half-year courses count only half as much in the computation of the final average.

Graduation GPA Requirements

Each student must have a 2.0 grade point average to graduate. Therefore, at the end of each school year, students whose grade point average is not 2.0 or higher must take the necessary classes in summer school at Christopher Columbus High School in order to achieve that grade point average.

Report Cards and Academic Progress

Report cards and progress reports are issued four times each year and are available through the school's parent communication system. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor their student's academic progress regularly through this platform. When students first enroll at the school, parents and students receive login credentials and instructions for accessing the school's assignment and grade reporting system. This system provides up-to-date information on class assignments, daily grades, and overall academic performance throughout the year. The final report card issued at the end of the academic year includes the student's grade point average (GPA) for the year, which appears at the bottom of the column labeled "Year."

Administrative Discretion

The Academic Dean and Administration reserve the right to interpret and apply grading policies, examination requirements, exemption criteria, GPA calculations, assessment procedures, and academic standards, and to make exceptions when warranted by the specific facts and circumstances of a student or situation.

3.11 COURSE FAILURES AND ACADEMIC PROBATION

Continued enrollment at Columbus High School is contingent on maintaining a GPA of 2.0 or higher and satisfactorily passing all current courses. Any student with two or more failures at the end of a semester or who does not achieve or has not maintained an overall 2.0 GPA will be considered on **academic probation** and may be asked to withdraw from Columbus. If he remains at Columbus, he must forfeit all athletic or extracurricular activities to be determined by the Principal and Administration. A freshman with an F in one subject may also be required to attend **Academic Study Hall**, one hour after school, Monday through Thursday. This service provides homework and study time for the student. Teachers and/or students from the honor societies may be available each school day for students needing extra help. The student's grades will be reviewed at the end of the next

semester. A student who fails up to, but not more than, 2 credits at the end of the school year must successfully make up those credits in summer school at Columbus. **Students who do not makeup failed courses** in Columbus' summer school or who fail in summer school may **not** be permitted to continue at Christopher Columbus High School. The Principal and Administration reserve the right to decide on the student's continued academic status as an Explorer.

Forgiveness Policy

When a student receives a final grade of D or F in a course taken at Christopher Columbus High School, the student, with the approval of the Academic Dean, may remediate the grade in a summer session at Christopher Columbus High School, provided there is sufficient student enrollment for the course. The new grade earned will replace the D or F and be calculated in the GPA. Students with Effort Grades of Unsatisfactory for at least 50% of the course may not receive a grade higher than a C+ for the summer course. All forgiveness courses must be taken during the summer immediately following the academic year in which the course was taken at Christopher Columbus High School.

Grade Review

When an unforeseen circumstance or a serious question arises regarding determining a final course grade or semester exam grade, the student must first reference the syllabus for the course and discuss the matter directly with the faculty member. If no solution is found, a written request for a review should be made to the Principal. The following process must be adhered to:

- 1) A written request for a review of a semester grade must be sent to the Principal no later than 30 days after the date semester grades become available to students. The student also sends a copy of this request to the faculty member and the Academic Dean.
- 2) The instructor shall forward the following to the Principal:
 - a) A copy of the course syllabus outlining assignments, tests, and examinations and their respective percentage weights is used for the final grade calculation;
 - b) The student's grades for all tests and assignments;
 - c) A demonstration of the calculations by which the final grade was determined.

After reviewing the information, the Principal will notify the student of the review decision. The decision is final.

3.12 HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is a listing of students whose grades for each marking period qualify them for the Principal's List, First Honors, or Second Honors.

- Principal's List: A+, A in every subject
- First Honors: minimum G.P.A. of 3.66 and no grade below B+
- Second Honors: minimum G.P.A. of 3.33 and no grade below B

Academic, Athletic, and Club awards are periodically posted or announced. Any parent who does not wish their son's name to be recognized should notify Dr. Vila, Academic Dean (see Parental Consent Agreement, page 14).

3.13 HONOR SOCIETIES

Christopher Columbus High School offers several Honor Societies, each with its own specific GPA and eligibility criteria. Our Honor Societies promote academic excellence, leadership, service, and strong character. They are designed to foster a community of high-achieving students who contribute positively to the school and society.

Members are expected to maintain high academic standards, participate in meaningful service, and model integrity, respect, and personal responsibility.

For a complete and current list of honor societies, and membership requirements, please refer to the [Clubs and Honor Societies](#) section of the OnCampus School Resource Page.

3.14 FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded scholarship that rewards Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and enroll in an eligible public or private post-secondary educational institution within five years of high school graduation. It is the umbrella program for two state-funded scholarships available to Columbus students: **The Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)** and **Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)**. These awards are determined based on academic achievement in high school, American College Testing (ACT), Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), and/or Classical Learning Test (CLT) scores, and fulfillment of specific course requirements. Below, you will find the requirements set forth by the Department of Education:

1. Be a Florida resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
2. Graduate from a Florida high school with a standard high school diploma or its equivalent;
3. Not have been found guilty of, or pled nolo contendere to, a felony charge;
4. Submit the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your senior year between October 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027;
5. Complete the required high school coursework;
6. Achieve the required minimum high school grade point average (GPA);
7. Complete the required number of volunteer service hours per the chart below;
8. Achieve the required minimum score on either the ACT, SAT, or CLT college entrance exam. Tests taken no later than August 31st of the student's graduation year are accepted for evaluation purposes;
9. Be accepted by, and enrolled in a degree or certificate program at an eligible Florida public or independent postsecondary institution in at least 6 non-remedial semester credit hours.

Award	16 High School Course Credits	High School Weighted Bright Futures GPA	Volunteer Service Hours	Minimum SAT/ACT/CLT Scores
Florida Academic Scholars (FAS)	4 – English (three must include substantial writing) 4 – Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 – Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 – Social Science 2 – World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.50	100 hours	1330 SAT 29 ACT 95 CLT

Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS)	4 – English (three must include substantial writing) 4 – Mathematics (at or above the Algebra I level) 3 – Natural Science (two must have substantial laboratory) 3 – Social Science 2 – World Language (sequential, in same language)	3.00	100 hours	1190 SAT 24 ACT 82 CLT
----------------------------------	--	------	-----------	------------------------------

3.15 GRADUATION CEREMONY

While Christopher Columbus High School no longer ranks students academically, the students with the two highest GPAs at the close of the third quarter of the senior year are traditionally recognized at the Graduation ceremony as the number one and number two highest GPAs of the graduating class. The determination is made by calculating GPAs to the fifth decimal, and, for this recognition only, no changes to GPAs will be considered after final grades have been processed for the third quarter.

Only the student with the highest overall GPA is guaranteed the privilege of speaking at the graduation ceremony. Should there be a tie for the highest GPA at the end of the third marking period, the Principal and Administration will decide on the speaker. A second student, not necessarily the one with the second-highest GPA, may be invited to address the student body at the graduation ceremony. The speaking privilege will be granted to the student selected by a committee after an application process. The Graduation Organizing Committee will determine the speaking arrangement at Graduation, and all student speeches must be reviewed and approved by a select committee of readers appointed by the Principal.

3.16 POST-GRADUATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Upon graduation, students will retain limited access to certain Christopher Columbus High School technology resources as outlined below. Graduates are solely responsible for transferring, backing up, and preserving any personal files, communications, or data they wish to retain before access is discontinued.

Columbus Email Account

Graduates may retain access to their Columbus email account for up to three (3) years following graduation. Prior to the expiration of this access period, graduates are responsible for transferring contacts, emails, and any other information to a personal account of their choosing.

After the three-year period has expired, access to the Columbus email account will be permanently discontinued. Christopher Columbus High School will not reactivate email accounts or retrieve data after access has been terminated.

Google Drive Access

Graduates may retain access to their Columbus Google Drive account for up to one (1) year following graduation. Students are responsible for downloading, transferring, and preserving any files or data they wish to keep before access expires.

After the one-year period has expired, Google Drive access will be permanently discontinued. Christopher Columbus High School will not reactivate accounts or recover files after access has been

terminated.

Apple ID and Specialized Applications

Upon graduation, students will immediately lose access to their Columbus-issued Apple ID and any school-provided software, applications, licenses, or technology services associated with their student account.

Students are responsible for saving or transferring any personal data prior to graduation. Christopher Columbus High School will not reactivate accounts, restore access, or recover data after graduation.

Administrative Discretion

The school reserves the right to modify, limit, suspend, or terminate access to any technology resource at any time and to establish procedures governing post-graduation access to school technology systems.

4. SCHOOL COUNSELING, STUDENT WELLNESS, AND COLLEGE & CAREER GUIDANCE

Counseling Services at Christopher Columbus High School include the School Counseling and College & Career Guidance departments. Together, they play a vital role in helping Explorers grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

Student Wellness and Social-Emotional Development

The **School Counseling Department** provides a comprehensive, grade-level counseling curriculum designed to help students successfully navigate their high school experience while taking full advantage of the opportunities available at Christopher Columbus High School. Through classroom presentations, individual meetings, assessments, and targeted programming, students are guided in their academic, personal, social, and college and career development.

Throughout all four years, counselors support students in developing essential life skills such as self-awareness, resilience, decision-making, time management, healthy relationships, and responsible digital citizenship. Students are encouraged to communicate concerns early and actively seek assistance before challenges significantly impact their academic performance, attendance, behavior, or personal well-being.

School counselors collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, Campus Ministry, and support staff to promote student success and well-being. Through these partnerships, students receive comprehensive support that addresses their academic, personal, social, emotional, and spiritual development.

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and caring environment where students can flourish academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. School counselors assist students experiencing personal challenges and work collaboratively with families, faculty, administrators, and outside professionals when appropriate. Counselors also respond to students during times of crisis and help connect families with available resources and services. School Counseling services are educational and supportive in nature and are not intended to provide long-term therapy, psychiatric treatment, or clinical mental health services. When appropriate, families may be referred to outside providers for additional support. Through a proactive and student-centered approach, the Counseling Department promotes student advocacy, emotional wellness, resilience, and healthy decision-making while encouraging students to seek support when needed.

Rooted in our Catholic faith and Marist values, the School Counseling Department strives to strengthen students' emotional wellness and character development, helping them become confident, resilient, adaptable, and purpose-driven young men prepared to thrive in college, career, leadership, service,

and life. Counseling services are provided in a supportive and respectful environment, with student privacy maintained in accordance with professional standards and school policies.

As students progress through their Columbus experience, counseling services evolve to support their academic planning, personal growth, and preparation for life beyond high school.

College & Career Guidance

The **Pat Call & Irene Culmo Center for College & Career Guidance** at Christopher Columbus High School provides a comprehensive, student-centered college and career planning program.

Choosing a college or post-secondary pathway is not a singular event, but rather the culmination of a process of reflection, self-discovery, and informed decision-making. Students are encouraged to identify their strengths, interests, values, and goals as they discern the post-secondary opportunities that best align with their talents, aspirations, and sense of purpose.

As such, our mission is to educate, empower, and support students and families throughout the college search, application, and transition process.

Through a structured, grade-level college and career readiness curriculum, students are guided in exploring their interests, strengths, values, and future aspirations while developing the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed post-secondary decisions. College counselors serve as trusted resources for students and families as they navigate academic planning, career exploration, college admissions, and financial aid opportunities.

Over the course of their Christopher Columbus experience, students and families participate in a comprehensive college and career readiness program that includes grade-specific communications, college nights, college fairs, college representative visits, college application workshops, financial aid presentations, career exploration opportunities, and individualized college counseling. Through these experiences, students are encouraged to take ownership of their future while maximizing the academic, leadership, service, and extracurricular opportunities available at Columbus.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration, School Counseling Department, and College & Career Guidance Department reserve the right to determine the scope of services, student participation requirements, referrals, counseling interventions, and program offerings based on the needs of students and the resources available to the school.

5. GENERAL SCHOOL REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION

5.1 THE SCHOOL DAY

Consult the Calendar Year-at-a-Glance posted on the school website for the daily schedule.

DISMISSAL TIMES		
SCHOOL DAY		NOTES
A Block Homeroom & Periods 1, 2, 3, 4	2:15 PM	Seniors are dismissed at 2:10 pm.
B Block Homeroom & Periods 1, 5, 6, 7	2:15 PM	Seniors are dismissed at 2:10 pm.
C Block Homeroom & Periods 1, 4, 3, 2	2:15 PM	Seniors are dismissed at 2:10 pm.
D Block Homeroom & Periods 1, 7, 6, 5	2:15 PM	Seniors are dismissed at 2:10 pm.

5.2 TRAFFIC PROCEDURES, DRIVING ON CAMPUS AND PARKING

Our top priority is ensuring student safety and efficient traffic flow during arrival and dismissal times.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times:

- Drop-off: 6:45 AM - 7:45 AM.
- Pick-up: Typically begins at 2:10 PM, varying based on dismissal time.

Entrance and Exit Points:

- Two entrances/exits on 87th Avenue.
- One entrance/exit on 32nd Street.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations:

- All students should be dropped off and picked up at the Cafeteria entrance or Marist Circle entrance.
- Students walking to school must use the marked pedestrian crossings at SW 87 Avenue and SW 32 Street or SW 32 Street at the entrance to Saint Brendan's Church.

Prohibited Drop-Off Locations:

- Do not drop off students at any time on 87th Avenue or 32nd Street.

Driving and Parking Regulations:

- Driving and parking on or around campus is a privilege, not a right. The school reserves the right to suspend or revoke parking privileges at any time for violations of school rules, unsafe driving, or conduct deemed inconsistent with the mission and standards of Christopher Columbus High School.
- The on-campus parking permit fee is \$300, regardless of the purchase date. Due to limited space, permits are sold only to juniors and seniors.
- Any student who drives a vehicle to school, whether parking on or off campus, must register the vehicle with the Dean of Students' Office. Failure to register a vehicle may result in disciplinary action and/or loss of parking privileges.
- The maximum speed limit on school property is 7 mph. Any student observed driving in an unsafe manner, including speeding, reckless driving, or failure to follow traffic directions, may immediately lose parking privileges and be subject to disciplinary action.

Parking Permit Requirements:

- A parking permit is mandatory to park in the school lot.
- Spaces are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, starting with seniors.
- The fee for replacing a lost parking permit is \$30.

Parking Violations On School Grounds:

- Illegally parked cars may incur a \$25 fine and towing at the owner's expense.

Parking Rules Outside of School Grounds – Off-Campus Violations:

- Speeding, reckless driving, and illegal parking in the surrounding neighborhood will be treated as school violations and subject to disciplinary action.
- Columbus High School is not responsible for vehicles parked off campus.
- Illegally parked cars off school grounds are subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense.

- Students may not park in areas designated as restricted, reserved, or prohibited by local ordinances, private property owners, neighboring businesses, or Saint Brendan Parish.
- Students are expected to be respectful of neighboring residents and businesses and may be subject to school discipline for conduct that creates safety concerns, traffic disruptions, property concerns, or community complaints.

Rules and Regulations:

- Columbus is not responsible for any damage, theft, or accident while vehicles are parked on school property.
- Students may not loiter in the parking lot upon arrival or dismissal.
- Students are not permitted to return to their cars during the school day unless authorized by an administrator.
- Smoking, vaping, and carrying related materials in cars are forbidden on school property.
- Consuming and carrying alcoholic beverages or illegal substances in cars are forbidden on school property.
- Vehicles brought onto school property are subject to inspection and search by school administrators when there is reasonable suspicion of a violation of school policy, possession of prohibited items, or concerns regarding student safety.

Consequences:

- Violations of these regulations may result in fines, detention, disciplinary action, suspension or revocation of parking privileges, towing at the owner's expense, and any other consequences deemed appropriate by the school Administration. Serious or repeated violations may result in permanent loss of parking privileges.

Parent and Visitor Parking:

- Parents and visitors should see the security attendant for an available spot and register with the Main Office.

5.3 ATTENDANCE, LATENESS, AND EARLY DISMISSAL

Regular attendance is crucial for academic success. Florida law requires students to attend school regularly and arrive on time each day. Parents/guardians are expected to ensure that absences are limited to serious reasons and to cooperate with the school in managing any necessary absences.

Reporting an Absence, Lateness, or Early Dismissal

In the event of an absence or lateness, the student's parent/legal guardian must notify the Attendance Office through OnCampus by 9:00 a.m.

Students who arrive late to school or who are tardy to class must obtain a pass from the Attendance Office by signing in through Concierge Pad. This requirement applies to all instances of lateness, whether excused or unexcused, including arrivals during class changes.

Submission of an absence notification through OnCampus does not automatically render the absence excused. The school reserves the right to determine whether an absence meets the criteria for an excused absence and may require supporting documentation.

Pre-arranged absences and early dismissals must be submitted through OnCampus. Absences due to illness may be considered excused when supported by appropriate medical documentation; however, the day will still count toward the cumulative absence totals outlined below. The school reserves the right to require medical documentation for any illness-related absence. Repeated illness absences or patterns of absenteeism may require additional verification from a licensed healthcare provider before such absences are considered excused.

The determination of whether an absence is excused or unexcused rests solely with the Administration.

Early Dismissals

Students may be dismissed from school before the end of the school day only in accordance with the procedures outlined below:

- The student's parent or legal guardian must notify the Attendance Office of the early dismissal through OnCampus. This notification should include the time the student will be picked up and the name of the person signing them out of school if it is different from the emergency contact.
- Students must report to the Attendance Office to sign out through the Concierge Pad.
- If the student returns to school after an early dismissal, he must sign in at the Attendance Office upon returning and will receive a re-admit-to-class slip.

Students may not be signed out of school after 1:45 p.m. unless there is an emergency. The determination of what constitutes an emergency shall be made solely by the Administration.

Extracurricular Eligibility

To participate in a school-sponsored activity on a school day, a student must be present by 9:30 a.m. and remain in attendance for the remainder of the school day. Exceptions, including medical appointments, funerals, court appearances, or other extenuating circumstances, must be approved by a Dean of Students.

The school reserves the right to question any absence or lateness and to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the stated policy.

Absence Classification and Documentation

If an absence is not reported through OnCampus, if requested documentation is not provided, or if the reason for the absence does not meet the school's criteria for an excused absence, the absence may be classified as unexcused.

Excessive Absences and Consequences

Students who accumulate eighteen (18) absences and/or tardies during a school year, or nine (9) absences and/or tardies during a semester, for reasons other than a prolonged serious illness documented by a physician, a death in the family, or another absence approved by the Administration, may be required to attend a school-family conference. This conference will determine an appropriate course of action and may result in consequences including detention, Saturday detention, summer school, probationary status, loss of privileges, or a recommendation for withdrawal from the school.

The Administration reserves the right to review individual circumstances and determine appropriate consequences on a case-by-case basis. Attendance-related decisions and disciplinary measures shall be made at the sole discretion of the Administration.

In cases of excessive absences, the following may apply as deemed by the Administration:

- Students who exceed eight (8) excused or unexcused absences in a quarter may be subject to academic consequences, including an administrative failure in one or more courses for that quarter, as determined by the Administration.
- Students may not be permitted to attend extracurricular or academic activities such as Grad Bash, Prom, class field trips, Close-up, retreats and encounters, band trips, or athletic events that require them to miss school time.
- Students absent, tardy, or who leave early on the day of a special evening event (e.g., Prom,

Homecoming, Grad Bash) may not be permitted to attend that event.

Unexcused Absences

As per school policy, unexcused absences include:

- Absences due to vacations, non-school programs, or non-school sporting activities;
- Absences due to older students providing daycare services for siblings;
- Absences due to the illness of others.

Students who accumulate ten (10) absences, twenty (20) tardies, or ten (10) early sign-outs, whether excused or unexcused, may be deemed ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities as determined by the Administration.

College Visits

Exceptions may be granted for approved college visits, scholarship interviews, or college admissions interviews. Documentation must be submitted to the school prior to the absence whenever possible.

Illness During the School Day

If a student becomes ill during the school day, he must report to the Nurse's Office. Students may not contact parents directly to arrange dismissal without first reporting to the Nurse's Office or Attendance Office. Parents will be contacted by school personnel if dismissal is deemed necessary.

Additional Policy Clarifications

Tardiness

- Three (3) unexcused tardies will be converted to one (1) full absence on a student's attendance record.
- Excessive tardiness may be considered a disciplinary matter and may result in detention, loss of privileges, probationary status, or other disciplinary consequences as determined by the Administration.

Early Dismissals

- After ten (10) early dismissals, all additional early dismissals will be considered unexcused unless appropriate documentation is provided and approved by the Administration.

Falsification of Attendance Records

- Any falsification of attendance records, parent notifications, medical documentation, sign-in/sign-out procedures, electronic attendance submissions, or other attendance-related records may result in disciplinary action, including detention, suspension, loss of privileges, dismissal from extracurricular activities, or other consequences as determined by the Administration.

Truancy and Unauthorized Absences

Skiping school, leaving campus without authorization, or intentionally missing assigned classes are serious disciplinary offenses that may result in detention, suspension, loss of privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, or expulsion.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this attendance policy in a manner consistent with the mission of the school and the best interests of the student body. Circumstances

not specifically addressed in this policy, as well as questions regarding attendance, tardiness, early dismissals, eligibility, and disciplinary consequences, shall be reviewed and decided by the Administration at its sole discretion.

Make-Up Work

Students with excused absences are permitted to make up missed work for credit. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with his teachers regarding any absence and to make arrangements for completing missed coursework, assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, and other academic requirements.

Students participating in school-sponsored activities are expected to notify their teachers in advance whenever possible and to take the initiative in planning for and completing any missed work. While moderators, coaches, sponsors, and school personnel may provide advance notice of student absences when practicable, the ultimate responsibility for obtaining and completing missed assignments rests with the student.

In cases of excused absences, including illness, school-sponsored activities, field trips, retreats, athletic events, and other approved absences, students will be allowed the same number of class periods missed to make up assignments, tests, quizzes, and other coursework associated with the classes missed, unless otherwise determined by the teacher or the Administration due to extenuating circumstances.

Students with unexcused absences may not receive credit for missed assignments, tests, quizzes, or other coursework completed during the period of absence, as determined by the teacher and the Administration.

5.4 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Fire Alarms and Evacuations

When a fire alarm sounds, students must remain calm and follow all instructions provided by faculty, staff, and emergency personnel. Unless there is an immediate threat, students should wait for directions before evacuating.

Students are expected to be familiar with the evacuation routes for the areas of campus they regularly occupy and should follow the evacuation route designated by school personnel. Students must leave personal belongings behind, proceed promptly to the designated assembly area, and remain with their class or assigned group until further instructions are provided.

Students may not use elevators during an evacuation unless specifically directed by Fire Department personnel or other emergency responders.

Students should familiarize themselves with the school's emergency procedures, including evacuation routes, emergency signals, and the location of designated assembly areas. In the event of an emergency, students must immediately comply with the directions of faculty, staff, administrators, and emergency personnel.

Students may return to the building only after an official "All Clear" has been issued by school administrators or emergency personnel.

Lockdowns

During a lockdown, students must remain silent, stay out of sight when directed, and follow all instructions provided by school personnel and law enforcement. The Administration will coordinate with local law enforcement and emergency responders as necessary. Parents and guardians will be notified as soon as practicable once accurate information is available and conditions permit.

Severe Weather and School Closings

Christopher Columbus High School generally follows Miami-Dade County Public Schools regarding school closures due to severe weather or other emergencies. Families should monitor local news outlets, the school website, official school communications, and school social media accounts for announcements regarding school closings, delayed openings, emergency procedures, and other important updates.

Administrative Authority During Emergencies

The Administration reserves the right to implement emergency procedures, modify schedules, restrict campus access, evacuate facilities, shelter in place, cancel activities, or take any other action deemed necessary to protect the safety and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

5.5 STUDENT INFORMATION AND FERPA RIGHTS

Any change of address, email address, telephone number, or emergency contact information must be reported promptly to the Registrar.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA applies to all schools that receive funds from the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA grants parents certain rights regarding their child's education records. These rights transfer to the student when the student reaches 18 years of age or attends a post-secondary institution.

These rights include:

- The right to inspect and review education records;
- The right to request the correction of inaccurate or misleading information contained in education records;
- The right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records, except as otherwise authorized by law; and,
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures to comply with FERPA.

In connection with the college application process, students and parents may be asked to authorize the release of transcripts, recommendations, school reports, disciplinary records, and other educational records to colleges, universities, scholarship organizations, and other educational institutions. By requesting such services, students and parents authorize Christopher Columbus High School to provide the records necessary to support those applications in accordance with applicable law and school procedures.

5.6 STUDENT I.D. CARDS

The student identification (I.D.) card is the official form of identification for all school and school-related activities. Students are required to carry their I.D. cards at all times while on campus and at school-sponsored events.

Students must present their I.D. card upon request by any faculty member, administrator, or staff member. Failure to produce a valid I.D. card upon request may result in disciplinary action. Repeated failure to carry or present a student I.D. card may result in additional disciplinary consequences as determined by the Administration.

Lost, stolen, damaged, or defaced I.D. cards must be replaced through the school. The replacement fee for an I.D. card is \$25.00.

5.7 CLOTHING STORE

Physical Education (P.E.) uniform items, as well as Christopher Columbus High School (CCHS)

sweatshirts, jackets, spirit wear, baseball caps, t-shirts, and other approved school merchandise, may be purchased through the Brother Kevin Clothing Store.

5.8 TEXTBOOKS

Each year, textbook fees are included in tuition.

The teacher will inform the student of any textbooks, applications, and materials required for the course. Course textbooks on EdTech's Shelfit page may be accessed through the On-Campus Resources tab.

Beyond the one-week grace period at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters, course changes requiring a different or additional textbook may result in additional charges. These would be billed on the family account. There are no refunds on charges related to textbooks.

5.9 PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND SEARCH AND SEIZURE POLICY

Students are solely responsible for safeguarding their personal belongings at all times. Christopher Columbus High School assumes no responsibility for personal property that is lost, stolen, misplaced, or damaged. Students are encouraged to label personal belongings with their name.

Physical Education and athletic lockers may be assigned to students on a limited or as-needed basis. All lockers remain the property of Christopher Columbus High School and are provided solely as a convenience to students. Assigned lockers are subject to inspection and search by school administrators at any time. Students should have no expectation of privacy regarding the contents of school-owned lockers.

Subject to Search

As a condition of enrollment, students and parents acknowledge that Christopher Columbus High School reserves the right to search a student's person, cell phone, electronic devices, backpack, bags, desk, wallet, vehicle, locker, or any other item brought onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity when deemed necessary by the Administration to maintain a safe, secure, and orderly educational environment or to enforce school policies.

Items that are illegal, prohibited, unsafe, or otherwise in violation of school rules may be confiscated and may be turned over to law enforcement when appropriate.

Students should have no expectation of privacy regarding items brought onto school property or to school-sponsored activities to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and school policy.

Unauthorized Sales and Solicitation

The sale, distribution, or solicitation of goods, services, tickets, or other items by students on campus or at school-sponsored events is prohibited unless prior written approval has been obtained from the Principal or his designee.

5.10 LOST AND FOUND

Students are regularly reminded: "If it is not yours, do not touch it." Students are expected to respect the property of others at all times. Any student found taking, damaging, concealing, or otherwise interfering with another person's property may be subject to disciplinary action. Students should promptly report missing belongings to the Deans of Students and check for items that may have been turned in. The school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

5.11 PROTOCOL FOR ANONYMOUS MESSAGES

The school encourages students, parents, and community members to communicate concerns directly and identify themselves whenever possible. Anonymous messages, complaints, or allegations may be difficult to investigate and verify. As a result, the Administration is not obligated to respond to or act upon anonymous communications.

The Administration reserves the right, however, to investigate and take appropriate action regarding any anonymous communication that raises concerns related to student safety, school security, violations of school policy, or the welfare of members of the school community.

5.12 MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

All new students must submit a completed Physical Health Form (Form 3040), a Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH 680, including Part A), and an Emergency Contact and Release Form prior to the student's first day of attendance. Students may not begin classes until all required forms have been received and approved by the school.

5.13 MEDICATION

Except as authorized by the school, students may not possess, use, distribute, share, sell, or administer any prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, supplements, or medical treatments on school property or at any school-sponsored activity. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, aspirin, pain relievers, cough drops, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

The Administration of medication to a student outside a physician's office or healthcare facility is primarily the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian. Parents are encouraged to consult with their physician to determine whether medication can be administered outside of school hours.

Only when necessary will the school permit the Administration of medication during the school day, and only in accordance with the following requirements:

- A parent or legal guardian must complete and submit an Authorization for Medication Form.
- The authorization form must include the name of the medication, dosage, method of administration, and the time(s) the medication is to be administered.
- All medication must be delivered to the school by a parent or legal guardian and must be in the original pharmacy-labeled container or original manufacturer's packaging.
- Prescription medication must be labeled with the student's name, medication name, dosage instructions, prescribing physician's name, and pharmacy information.
- The school reserves the right to refuse to administer any medication that is not properly labeled or accompanied by the required documentation.

While school personnel may supervise or assist with the administration of approved medication, students remain responsible for reporting at the designated time to receive their medication. The school is not responsible for reminding students to report for scheduled medication administration.

Exceptions to this policy may be made for students authorized to carry and self-administer emergency medications, including epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens), inhalers, diabetic supplies, or other medications as approved by the school and supported by appropriate medical documentation.

5.14 STUDENT CONCUSSION ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to supporting students who have been diagnosed with a concussion or who are experiencing post-concussion symptoms. Temporary academic accommodations may be provided to reduce cognitive demands, support recovery, and assist students in maintaining academic progress during the recovery period.

To initiate accommodations, the student must provide documentation from a licensed healthcare provider indicating a concussion diagnosis and identifying any recommended academic restrictions or limitations, such as screen sensitivity, reading difficulties, headaches, shortened attention span, or reduced workload.

The documentation must be submitted to the Counseling Office and will be shared with the Academic Dean and the student's teachers.

Upon receipt of the required documentation, the school counselor will coordinate a meeting or consultation with the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and Academic Dean to review the student's needs and determine appropriate accommodations.

An Academic Adjustment Plan may be developed and communicated to the student's teachers. Accommodations may include, but are not limited to:

- Reduced screen time;
- Extended deadlines;
- Modified assignments;
- Shortened classwork;
- Temporary testing restrictions;
- Rest breaks during the school day; and,
- Other accommodations deemed appropriate based on medical recommendations and the student's needs.

Accommodations are generally temporary and will remain in effect for the period recommended by the healthcare provider or as otherwise determined by the school based on the student's recovery progress.

The school counselor may periodically monitor the student's progress, communicate with teachers, and gather feedback regarding the student's academic performance and well-being during the accommodation period.

Prior to resuming full academic participation, the school may require updated documentation from the student's healthcare provider indicating that accommodations are no longer necessary or identifying any continued restrictions.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to review all medical documentation and to determine appropriate academic accommodations, modifications, and support measures based on the student's individual circumstances and educational needs.

5.15 PARENTAL COOPERATION

Christopher Columbus High School views the education of each student as a partnership among the student, the parents or legal guardians, and the school. Successful fulfillment of the school's mission requires mutual trust, cooperation, respect, and support among all parties.

Parents and students are expected to comply with school policies and procedures and to demonstrate respect for the authority of school administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers. This expectation applies at all school-sponsored activities, whether on or off campus, as well as in communications conducted through social media, electronic platforms, and other public forums.

Electronic Communications and Parent Groups

Parents/guardians are expected to communicate in a respectful, constructive, and responsible manner when using email, text messages, social media, messaging applications, parent group chats, online

forums, WhatsApp groups, and other electronic communication platforms. This expectation applies whether such communications occur through school-sponsored channels or through privately created groups and forums.

The use of electronic communications to disclose confidential or private information, harass, intimidate, disparage, defame, undermine school personnel, students, or families, spread rumors, encourage divisiveness within the school community, or otherwise interfere with the mission and operations of the school is inconsistent with the spirit of cooperation expected between the school and families.

The school reserves the right to consider the content, nature, and impact of such communications when evaluating whether a constructive partnership continues to exist between the school and a student's family.

Continued Enrollment and School Partnership

The school reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether the actions of a student or parent/guardian have undermined the spirit of cooperation necessary for the educational relationship to continue. When the school determines that a positive and productive partnership no longer exists, or that the conduct of a parent/guardian or student is disruptive, divisive, threatening, harassing, defamatory, or otherwise inconsistent with the mission, values, policies, or best interests of the school, the school may require the withdrawal of the student or decline to re-enroll the student for a subsequent school year.

Enrollment at Christopher Columbus High School is a privilege, not a right, and continued enrollment is contingent upon maintaining a constructive and cooperative relationship between the school, the student, and the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

5.16 PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEO, AND MEDIA RELEASE

By acknowledging the Student-Parent Handbook through the MyCCHS Parent Portal, parents/guardians grant Christopher Columbus High School permission to photograph, videotape, record, and otherwise capture the likeness, image, voice, and name of their son for educational, informational, promotional, marketing, fundraising, and public relations purposes during the student's enrollment at Christopher Columbus High School.

Such materials may be used in school publications and communications, including but not limited to brochures, flyers, invitations, posters, programs, newsletters, websites, social media platforms, promotional videos, advertisements, media submissions, and other print or electronic media.

Parents/guardians who do not wish to grant this permission must indicate their decision in writing through the appropriate school process. Parents/guardians acknowledge that these materials may be viewed by the general public and may be distributed through various media outlets.

By granting permission, parents/guardians voluntarily release and hold harmless Christopher Columbus High School, the Marist Brothers of the Schools USA, Inc., their employees, agents, representatives, and affiliates from any claims, demands, causes of action, damages, or liability arising from or related to the use, publication, reproduction, or distribution of such photographs, video recordings, or other media materials.

5.17 CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS

Florida law requires any person who knows of or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused, abandoned, neglected, or otherwise endangered to report such information to the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Christopher Columbus High School employees are mandatory reporters and are required to comply with all applicable reporting laws and regulations.

The school will fully cooperate with child protective investigations conducted by the Florida Department of Children and Families, law enforcement agencies, or other governmental authorities authorized by law. Reports of suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect may be made by contacting the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873) or through other authorized reporting methods.

Child protective investigations may include interviews of students conducted on school property by authorized representatives of DCF or law enforcement agencies. Such interviews may occur without prior notice to or consent from a parent or guardian, as permitted by law. The school will comply with all lawful requests and directives from investigating authorities.

When permitted by law and consistent with the instructions of the investigating agency, the school may notify parents or guardians regarding investigative activities involving their child. The school may also request that a school administrator or staff member be present during interviews conducted on campus, when permitted by the investigating agency and applicable law.

5.18 TESTIFYING IN DIVORCE, CUSTODY, OR PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCEEDINGS

The Catholic Church views marriage as a sacrament and the foundation of family life. Christopher Columbus High School recognizes the importance of preserving positive relationships among parents, students, and the school community, particularly during family disputes.

Parents and legal guardians agree that school administrators, teachers, counselors, coaches, staff members, clergy, and other school representatives shall not be required to provide testimony, depositions, affidavits, declarations, records reviews, evaluations, or expert opinions in connection with divorce proceedings, custody disputes, parental rights matters, or other domestic relations litigation.

Should a parent or legal guardian seek to compel the participation of school personnel in such proceedings, the school reserves the right to take any action deemed appropriate to protect its employees, agents, and representatives, including seeking legal counsel and objecting to such requests as permitted by law.

The school further reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether a parent's actions in connection with such proceedings have adversely affected the cooperative relationship between the family and the school.

5.19 STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Christopher Columbus High School maintains a student accident insurance policy that provides coverage for eligible accidental injuries or death occurring while the policy is in force. Coverage applies during school hours, on school days, and while participating in school-sponsored and supervised activities, including interscholastic athletics, subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance policy.

Claim Procedures

In the event of a student injury, the following procedures must be followed:

- Claim forms are available through the Athletic Trainer's Office and must be submitted within ninety (90) days of the date of injury.
- Medical treatment must begin within ninety (90) days of the date of injury.
- The student's parent or guardian is responsible for ensuring that the treating physician completes the appropriate portion of the claim form or provides an itemized statement showing the dates of treatment, services rendered, and applicable charges.
- Claim forms should not be left with the hospital or medical provider unless specifically instructed by the insurance carrier.

- Benefits are generally payable directly to the medical providers involved unless proof of payment and paid receipts are submitted with the claim.

Questions regarding coverage, eligibility, claim procedures, or benefits should be directed to the Athletic Trainer's Office or the insurance carrier. All claims are subject to the terms and conditions of the applicable insurance policy, which shall govern in the event of any conflict with this handbook.

5.20 TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Parents and legal guardians acknowledge and agree that Christopher Columbus High School does not provide, arrange, supervise, or assume responsibility for student transportation to or from school except as specifically authorized in writing by the school.

Transportation to and from school is the sole responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian. Christopher Columbus High School does not endorse, sponsor, recommend, supervise, or assume responsibility for any private transportation arrangements made by parents, students, or third parties. The school does not supervise students before they arrive on campus or after dismissal unless the student is participating in a school-sponsored activity under the supervision of school personnel.

In limited circumstances, and only with prior written approval from the school, a parent or legal guardian may engage a commercial transportation provider to transport a student from school. Any such arrangement must be approved by the school and may require the completion of additional authorization and release forms.

Christopher Columbus High School assumes no responsibility or liability for the actions, omissions, safety, operation, or performance of any private individual, transportation provider, or transportation service engaged by a parent or legal guardian.

5.21 STUDENT HARDWARE POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School believes that technology, including MacBooks and iPads, is an essential part of the educational experience because it provides students with access to powerful tools that support creativity, collaboration, research, communication, and critical thinking. Technology empowers students to take ownership of their learning by allowing them to explore content at their own pace, access resources beyond the classroom, and actively engage in the learning process. By integrating technology into daily instruction, we help prepare students with the digital literacy, problem-solving abilities, and independent learning skills necessary for success in college, careers, and an increasingly technology-driven world.

Each student is issued a hardware bundle when he starts at CCHS and keeps it upon graduation. The hardware bundle consists of:

- (1) Apple Pencil
- (1) Keyboard Case for iPad
- (1) iPad Air with AppleCare
- (1) Macbook Air with AppleCare
- (1) Texas Instrument Calculator (**Freshmen**)

Students are expected to care for school-issued technology and comply with all applicable Technology Acceptable Use Policies, device procedures, and school expectations regarding responsible use.

5.22 FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tuition Management and Payment Plans

All parents/guardians are required to enroll in Blackbaud Tuition Management and select an approved payment plan before completing the Enrollment Agreement for their student to attend Christopher

Columbus High School. Tuition and fees must be paid through the electronic automatic payment option designated by the school.

Tuition Penalties and Delinquent Accounts

Families are expected to maintain their tuition accounts in good standing. Students whose accounts become delinquent may be restricted from receiving report cards, transcripts, diplomas, or other official records and may be prohibited from participating in social events, extracurricular activities, school-sponsored trips, graduation-related activities, or other school functions. Students with significantly delinquent accounts may be subject to a request to withdraw from the school.

The following fees may apply:

- Late Tuition Fee: \$50 per month for balances not paid in full;
- Blackbaud Tuition Management Follow-Up Service Fee: \$40 per month for balances remaining unpaid beyond the applicable five-day grace period; and,
- Failed Transaction Fee: \$30 per occurrence.

The school reserves the right to modify tuition rates, fees, payment plans, financial policies, deadlines, and related procedures at its discretion.

Entering Students

Students enrolled for the First Semester on or before October 2, 2026, will be charged full annual tuition and applicable fees.

Students enrolled for the Second Semester on or before February 12, 2027, will be charged one-half of the annual tuition and applicable fees.

Withdrawal Policy

This policy applies to all students, including those whose families relocate or transfer to another school.

Upon withdrawal, all financial obligations to Christopher Columbus High School must be satisfied before transcripts, records, diplomas, or other official documents are released, except as otherwise required by law.

Tuition Refund Deadlines

- First Semester Refund Deadline: September 4, 2026
- Second Semester Refund Deadline: January 22, 2027

Financial Aid

Christopher Columbus High School offers financial assistance to qualifying families. Information regarding financial aid eligibility, requirements, and application procedures may be found on the school's website under Admissions and [Financial Aid](#).

Student Technology Devices

Students who withdraw from Christopher Columbus High School and elect to retain school-issued technology equipment shall be responsible for the applicable technology fee listed below. The technology bundle may not be itemized.

Students who do not wish to retain school-issued technology equipment must return all devices, accessories, and related equipment to the Technology Department in working condition.

Devices or accessories that are lost, damaged beyond normal wear and tear, or not returned may result in additional charges.

The Administration reserves the right to determine the condition of returned equipment and assess appropriate repair or replacement costs.

Technology Retention Fees – Current Students

Class Group	Withdrawal (Outgoing)
<i>Freshman</i>	\$ 1800
<i>Sophomore</i>	\$ 1200
<i>Junior</i>	\$ 600
<i>Senior</i>	\$ 0

Technology Retention Fees – Transfer Students

Transfer students who withdraw before graduation will be assessed fees based upon the number of years attended at Christopher Columbus High School.

Class Group	Transfer Students
<i>1 Year</i>	\$ 1800
<i>2 Years</i>	\$ 1200
<i>3 Years</i>	\$ 600

Device Repair and Replacement Costs

If a school-issued device is lost, damaged, or requires replacement, the student and family may be responsible for the applicable repair or replacement fee before another device is issued.

To facilitate timely repairs and continued student access to technology, replacement devices may include professionally repaired and AppleCare-certified equipment, subject to availability.

Device Type	Replacement	Repair
<i>iPad Air (incl. AppleCare)</i>	\$ 685	\$ 50
<i>MacBook Air (incl. AppleCare)</i>	\$ 1250	\$100
<i>Apple Pencil</i>	\$ 125	Unavailable
<i>Apple Magic Keyboard</i>	\$ 290	Unavailable
<i>Logitech Folio Keyboard</i>	\$ 165	Unavailable
<i>Logitech Combo Case</i>	\$205	Unavailable

<i>Apple MacBook Charger</i>	\$ 65	Unavailable
<i>Apple iPad Charger</i>	\$ 40	Unavailable
<i>Texas Instruments Calculator</i>	\$140	Unavailable

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply all financial policies, determine account standing, establish payment arrangements when appropriate, assess fees, and enforce consequences for delinquent accounts based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6. STUDENT CONDUCT

6.1 DRESS CODE

As a private Catholic school, Christopher Columbus High School reserves the right to establish and enforce standards regarding student dress, grooming, and appearance. The dress code is intended to promote neatness, good grooming, personal responsibility, school pride, and an academic environment conducive to learning.

Students are expected to be in complete and proper uniform throughout the school day and at all school-sponsored activities where uniforms are required. This includes, but is not limited to, wearing the shirt properly tucked in, the top button fastened, the tie appropriately worn, a belt worn at all times, and shoes properly secured and worn as intended.

Uniform items must be neat, clean, properly fitted, and maintained in good condition. Uniform items that are worn, damaged, altered, or otherwise deemed unacceptable by the Administration must be replaced promptly.

Students who are not in compliance with the dress code may be referred to a Dean of Students and may be removed from class until the violation is corrected. Parents/guardians may be required to provide appropriate attire before the student is permitted to return to class.

The only approved Christopher Columbus High School uniform items are those sold through the school's authorized uniform provider:

Flynn O'Hara Uniforms

8653 SW 124 Avenue

Miami, Florida 33183

Phone: (305) 404-1013

Website: www.flynnohara.com

The Administration reserves the right to designate special dress days, spirit days, non-uniform days, or other exceptions to the standard uniform requirements.

Freshmen and Sophomores

Students must wear:

- A long- or short-sleeved button-down shirt bearing the Columbus "Ship" logo embroidered on the left chest. Approved shirt colors are solid white and solid light blue.
- The official Columbus uniform tie, navy blue with a red and white stripe.
- Columbus uniform khaki pants with the CCHS logo embroidered on the pocket.
- A solid brown belt that presents a traditional leather-style appearance.

Juniors and Seniors

Students must wear:

- A long- or short-sleeved button-down shirt bearing the Columbus "C" logo embroidered on the left chest. Approved shirt colors are solid white and solid French blue.
- The official Columbus uniform tie, red with a blue and white stripe.
- Columbus uniform khaki pants with the CCHS logo embroidered on the pocket.
- A solid brown belt that presents a traditional leather-style appearance.

All of the above items are exclusive to Flynn O'Hara Uniforms.

All Students

Shoes

- The approved school shoe is the Flynn O'Hara Jungle Nubuck Moe.
- The Brown Men's Skechers Rayland Slip-On remains an approved shoe and may continue to be worn as long as it is maintained in good condition.
- Appropriate socks must be worn at all times.

Cold-Weather Attire

- Students may wear only approved Christopher Columbus High School outerwear, including Columbus uniform sweatshirts, pullovers, jackets, and hoodies.

Ties

- Official Columbus ties sold through Brother Kevin's Clothing Store or approved school-sponsored club fundraisers are permitted.

Summer School Attire

- Summer school dress requirements are the same as those for the regular school year.
- As an exception, students may wear an official Columbus polo shirt in place of the standard uniform shirt and tie.
- Columbus polo shirts may be purchased through Brother Kevin's Clothing Store located on the first floor of the Mas Family Center.

Hair, Grooming, and Appearance

Students must be clean-shaven. Mustaches, beards, goatees, and other facial hair are not permitted. Students who fail to comply with this requirement may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students seeking an exception to this requirement for a documented medical condition must provide appropriate medical documentation to the school. Any accommodation or exception shall be subject to review and approval by the Administration, which reserves the right to establish reasonable grooming expectations consistent with the student's medical needs and the school's standards.

Hairstyles must be neat, clean, and maintained in a manner that does not interfere with the educational environment, student safety, or the proper wearing of school attire and safety equipment.

Natural hairstyles and protective hairstyles, including but not limited to afros, coils, braids, twists, locs, and similar styles, are permitted provided they are neat, well-maintained, and do not obstruct the student's vision or create a safety concern.

The following are not permitted:

- Hair covering the eyes in a manner that obstructs vision;
- Dyed, bleached, or unnatural hair colors;
- Hair designs, patterns, lettering, symbols, or shaved artwork;
- Hairstyles containing inappropriate, offensive, or disruptive messages or imagery;
- Styles determined by the Administration to create a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

Other Appearance Standards

Hats, caps, hoods, bandanas, sunglasses, and other headwear may not be worn inside school buildings during the school day unless specifically authorized by the Administration.

Earrings, tongue rings, eyebrow rings, nose rings, facial piercings, gauges, and other visible body jewelry are not permitted at school or at school-sponsored activities. Class rings, religious medals worn beneath the uniform, medical alert jewelry, and wristwatches are permitted.

Students may not conceal piercings with bandages, tape, fishing line, thread, retainers, or similar devices intended to circumvent this policy.

Students are not permitted to wear makeup, nail polish, acrylic nails, artificial nails, or other cosmetic enhancements unless specifically approved by the Administration.

Book Bags and Personal Bags

Students who carry backpacks, book bags, duffel bags, athletic bags, computer bags, or similar items must ensure that such items are clean, in good condition, and free from graffiti-style writing, drawings, stickers, symbols, language, or images that are inappropriate, offensive, disruptive, or inconsistent with the mission and values of Christopher Columbus High School.

Students are encouraged to label personal bags with their name or student identification number for identification purposes.

All bags, backpacks, and personal containers brought onto campus are subject to search in accordance with school policy. Students should not bring valuable personal items to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and enforce all dress code, grooming, appearance, jewelry, accessory, cosmetic, footwear, outerwear, hairstyle, backpack, and personal item standards and to determine whether a student's appearance is consistent with the mission, values, safety requirements, and expectations of Christopher Columbus High School.

6.2 HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or retaliation based on a person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status, or any other protected status is strictly prohibited.

This policy applies to all students, employees, visitors, school-sponsored activities, and school-related events on or off campus.

This policy also applies to conduct occurring through electronic communications, social media platforms, text messages, email, and other digital communications when such conduct affects the school environment or the safety and well-being of members of the school community.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is prohibited by federal law and school policy. Sexual harassment includes any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or verbal, visual, written, electronic, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual comments, jokes, threats, or rumors;
- Unwanted touching, grabbing, pinching, or physical contact;
- Sending, receiving, possessing, displaying, transmitting, or distributing sexually explicit messages, images, videos, or other materials;
- Suggestive gestures, staring, or other inappropriate conduct;
- Sexting, soliciting, receiving, possessing, sharing, forwarding, or distributing nude or sexually explicit images or videos.

Students involved in sexting may be subject to serious disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, and incidents may be reported to law enforcement or other appropriate agencies.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who experiences, witnesses, or becomes aware of harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct must report the matter immediately to the Principal or another administrator.

If the complaint involves the Principal, the matter should be reported directly to the President of the School.

All reports will be investigated promptly and appropriately. Individuals who report concerns in good faith will be protected from retaliation.

Disciplinary Action

Students found responsible for violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary consequences, including warnings, parent conferences, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense.

Knowingly making a false accusation of harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation may result in disciplinary action. A complaint made in good faith that is not substantiated following an investigation shall not be considered a false accusation.

Safety in Private Spaces

In accordance with Florida law (§553.865, Florida Statutes), school restrooms and locker room/changing facilities are designated for use by biological males or biological females unless specifically designated as unisex facilities. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary consequences as determined by the school Administration.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine the appropriate response and disciplinary consequences based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.3 DRUG, TOBACCO, AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to maintaining a drug- and alcohol-free environment

on campus and at all school-sponsored events. The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs, mood-altering substances, nicotine, vaping products (including electronic cigarettes), alcohol, prescription medications used in a manner inconsistent with their prescribed purpose or instructions, over-the-counter medications used improperly or for intoxicating purposes, or drug-related paraphernalia is strictly prohibited. This includes Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC products. Violations may result in immediate expulsion—even on a first offense.

Any student who sells, distributes, furnishes, shares, or attempts to distribute drugs, alcohol, nicotine products, vaping products, controlled substances, or drug-related paraphernalia may be subject to immediate expulsion, as determined by the Administration.

This policy applies regardless of whether the prohibited conduct occurs on or off campus when such conduct affects the health, safety, welfare, reputation, or educational environment of the school community.

The school reserves the right to conduct searches of students, their belongings, electronic devices, vehicles, or other property brought onto campus in accordance with school policy.

Drug Testing Program

To reinforce our prevention efforts, CCHS requires mandatory drug testing. All students are subject to random hair and urine testing throughout the year. Substances screened for may include, but are not limited to:

- Marijuana (including Delta-8 and Delta-9)
- Cocaine
- Opiates
- Amphetamines (including ecstasy and meth)
- PCP
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2, Spice)
- Nicotine

Testing Procedures:

- A small hair sample is collected for lab testing; urine tests may also be used.
- Results identify drug type, level (light, moderate, or heavy), and time frame of use.
- Students may be tested more than once and are returned to the testing pool after each test.
- Any attempt to interfere with the test will be considered a **positive** result.
- A negative result triggers a letter home confirming the result.
- A **positive result** triggers a confidential meeting with the Principal and/or Deans.

Positive Drug Test Procedure:

1. **First Positive:**
 - Parents meet with the Principal.
 - Referral list of school-approved counselors provided.
 - Student must complete counseling and submit to a follow-up drug test approximately one hundred (100) days later at the family's expense.
2. **Second Positive:**
 - Second meeting with the Principal.
 - Student may be asked to withdraw from school.

Nicotine Testing and Consequences

Nicotine use is tested alongside other substances.

- **First Positive:**
 - Parents notified via email by the Program Director.
 - Deans of Students interview student and may conduct a search.
- **Second Positive:**
 - Parents and student meet with Deans.
 - Counseling referrals and educational seminars assigned.
 - Suspension possible.
- **Third Positive:**
 - Student placed on **disciplinary probation**.
 - Loss of extracurricular privileges (e.g., Grad Bash, Homecoming, Close Up, athletics).
 - Possible expulsion if additional offenses or existing major discipline record exists.

Drug testing records and prior positive results may be considered by the Administration throughout a student's enrollment at Christopher Columbus High School when determining appropriate interventions, disciplinary measures, and eligibility for extracurricular participation.

Additional Testing

Students who display signs or symptoms of drug, alcohol, or nicotine use, or for whom the Administration has reasonable suspicion of use, possession, distribution, or impairment, may be required to undergo testing at the family's expense.

A positive result, even if use occurred off-campus, may result in a mandatory counseling plan. Refusal to participate in a required drug or alcohol test, failure to cooperate with testing procedures, or attempts to adulterate, substitute, or otherwise interfere with the testing process may be treated as a positive test result and may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion.

Voluntary Help

Students who voluntarily seek assistance for a substance-related concern before being identified through disciplinary action, investigation, reasonable suspicion, or drug testing may receive support and intervention services. **The school will work with the student, family, and appropriate professionals to develop a plan that promotes the student's health, well-being, and continued success.**

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine the appropriate response, intervention, testing requirements, disciplinary consequences, and conditions for continued enrollment based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.4 ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The school is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, caring, and respectful learning environment for all of its students. As such, bullying is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Therefore, this policy prohibits any unwelcome verbal or written conduct or gestures directed at an individual by a student that has the effect of:

- physically, emotionally, or mentally harming an individual;
- damaging, extorting, or taking an individual's personal property;
- placing an individual in reasonable fear of emotional or mental harm;
- placing an individual in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or,
- creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with an individual's educational opportunities or the Catholic mission of the school.

Bullying

Bullying is the willful and repeated harm inflicted upon another individual which may involve but is not limited to: teasing, name-calling, slurs, rumors, jokes, false accusations, intimidation, stalking, innuendos, demeaning comments, pranks, social isolation, gestures, cyberbullying, or other verbal or written conduct.

Bullying often involves a pattern of behavior; however, a single serious incident may be considered bullying if the Administration determines that the conduct is sufficiently severe.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying includes the following misuses of digital technology: teasing, intimidating, or making false accusations about an individual by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital images, or website postings (including blogs and social media platforms).

This policy applies to bullying and cyberbullying occurring on or off campus, including conduct through social media, text messages, email, websites, online gaming platforms, artificial intelligence tools, or other electronic communications when such conduct affects the school environment, a student's educational opportunities, or the safety and well-being of members of the school community.

This policy applies to students who directly engage in bullying or cyberbullying, as well as to students who encourage, support, assist, or participate in such conduct.

This policy prohibits bullying that occurs on school premises before, during, or after school hours; on any bus or vehicle used as part of a school activity; or during any school function, extracurricular activity, or other school-sponsored event or activity.

Reporting Complaints

Students and parents are encouraged to report any bullying incidents to the school immediately. If a student experiences or a parent witnesses bullying, it should be promptly reported to the Deans of Students or the Principal. The school will provide an incident report form to be completed, dated, and signed by the reporting party to initiate further inquiry.

Retaliation

Retaliation against any student, parent, or employee who reports bullying, participates in an investigation, or provides information regarding a complaint is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

Any student found to have violated this policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, which may include: temporary removal from the classroom, loss of privileges, detention, counseling, parent conference, suspension, expulsion, and/or notification to appropriate authorities. The disciplinary action may be unique to the individual incident and may vary in method and severity based on the Deans of Students and/or the Principal's discretion. The Administration may also implement educational, restorative, counseling, or behavioral interventions when deemed appropriate.

Knowingly making a false report or accusation of bullying constitutes a violation of this policy and may result in disciplinary action. A complaint made in good faith that is not substantiated following an investigation shall not be considered a false report.

Bullying/Harassment Investigation Disclosures

While the school generally prohibits the nonconsensual disclosure of information contained in educational records, limited exceptions apply including for the disclosure to victims of bullying or harassment when disciplinary sanctions or other measures relate directly to the victim. Parents hereby consent and acknowledge that the school may, pursuant to this exception, disclose to the victims of harassment or bullying, and to their parents, any information related to disciplinary sanctions and/or other measures that relate to the harassment and/or bullying at issue regardless of whether the matters disclosed are part of an educational record.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine the appropriate investigative procedures, interventions, disciplinary consequences, and corrective actions based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.5 ANONYMOUS TIPLINE

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to maintaining a safe, secure, and respectful learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. Students, parents, and community members are encouraged to report concerns involving school safety, threats, bullying, harassment, vandalism, substance abuse, weapons, self-harm, or any activity that may place individuals or the school community at risk.

Reports may be submitted through the school's Anonymous Tipline. Individuals may provide information anonymously and are encouraged to report concerns as soon as possible. All reports are reviewed by school administrators and/or appropriate authorities, and appropriate action will be taken when necessary.

The Tipline is intended for reporting safety concerns and potential violations of school rules or laws. Knowingly submitting false, misleading, or malicious reports may result in disciplinary action.

Students should continue to report emergencies, immediate threats, or urgent safety concerns directly to a school administrator, faculty member, or law enforcement agency when immediate intervention is required. www.columbushs.com/tipline

6.6 WEAPONS POLICY

Weapons are prohibited on school property, at school-sponsored activities, and at any event under the supervision of Christopher Columbus High School.

Any student who brings, possesses, uses, displays, transfers, sells, or threatens others with a weapon, or any object used or intended to be used as a weapon, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, as determined by the Administration.

For purposes of this policy, a weapon includes, but is not limited to, firearms, ammunition, knives, explosive devices, chemical agents, look-alike weapons, or any object that is used, intended to be used, or reasonably perceived as capable of causing bodily harm, intimidation, or fear.

The school reserves the right to notify law enforcement authorities and to take any action necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the school community.

6.7 THREAT OF VIOLENCE POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Any verbal, written, electronic, visual, or symbolic communication that threatens violence, serious bodily harm, death, or destruction of property is strictly prohibited.

Threats may include, but are not limited to, statements made in person, written notes, text messages, emails, social media posts, online communications, artificial intelligence-generated content, images, gestures, or other forms of expression that reasonably cause concern for the safety of individuals or the school community.

Any student who makes, communicates, shares, encourages, or participates in a threat of violence may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

- Immediate removal from class and/or suspension from school;
- A mandatory threat assessment or evaluation by a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, or other qualified mental health professional at the family's expense;
- Meetings with parents, school administrators, counselors, and other appropriate personnel;
- Disciplinary probation, loss of privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, or other disciplinary consequences;
- Withdrawal or expulsion from school.

The Administration may require a written evaluation or recommendation from a licensed mental health professional before a student is permitted to return to school. The Administration shall determine, in its sole discretion, whether a student may return to school and under what conditions.

The school reserves the right to notify law enforcement, child protective authorities, mental health professionals, the Archdiocese, or other appropriate agencies whenever deemed necessary to protect the safety and welfare of the school community.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine the appropriate response, safety measures, evaluations, disciplinary consequences, and conditions for continued enrollment based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.8 PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

As a Catholic school, Christopher Columbus High School promotes friendship, charity, kindness, respect, and appropriate Christian conduct. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for themselves and others in all interactions.

Public displays of affection that are inconsistent with the values and expectations of the school are not permitted. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, kissing, prolonged embracing, inappropriate physical contact, or other behavior that exceeds the bounds of simple friendship.

This policy applies on campus, at school-sponsored events, school dances, athletic events, field trips, and any other activity under the supervision of the school.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, including detention, suspension, loss of privileges, or other consequences as determined by the Administration.

The Administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate conduct in accordance with the mission, values, and expectations of Christopher Columbus High School.

6.9 USE OF CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES

To maintain a focused academic environment, students must comply with the following cell phone and electronic device policies at Christopher Columbus High School.

For purposes of this policy, electronic devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, headphones, tablets, AI-enabled devices, smart glasses, and other electronic

communication, recording, or internet-capable devices.

- **Classroom Rule:**
Upon entering any classroom, students **must place their cell phone in the designated cell phone pocket** located in the room. This is mandatory and non-negotiable.
- **General Use:**
Cell phones may only be used **respectfully and non-disruptively** in designated areas (e.g., cafeteria during lunch). They must be **silenced and stored away** in all prohibited areas during the school day.
- **Prohibited Areas:**
Phones and electronic devices may not be used in classrooms, science labs, restrooms, PE areas, or school offices **unless explicitly approved by staff for academic purposes**.
- **Photography, Recording, and Distribution:**
Students may not photograph, video record, audio record, livestream, or otherwise capture images or communications of any student, employee, or school activity without permission from school personnel. Unauthorized recording, transmission, posting, sharing, or distribution of such content may result in disciplinary action.
- **Staff Compliance:**
Students must follow all staff instructions about phone use. This includes ending calls when approached by faculty and maintaining silent mode at all times.
- **Disruptive Use:**
Any use of devices that disrupts learning or violates school policy—including cheating, harassment, or unlawful activity—may result in serious disciplinary action.
- **Discipline Structure:**
 - **1st Offense:** Device confiscated and held in the Attendance Office until the end of the school day. Disciplinary action may be assigned.
 - **2nd Offense:** Device held in the Attendance Office until Friday. Parents/guardians contacted. Additional disciplinary action may be issued.
 - **3rd Offense:** Device held in the Main Office. A parent or legal guardian must pick it up. Additional disciplinary consequences may be assigned.
- **Earbuds/Headphones:**
These are **not permitted in hallways**. In classrooms, use is **only allowed with teacher permission**.
- **Smart Glasses and Wearable Technology:**
Smart glasses, including Meta AI glasses and similar wearable recording, communication, or artificial intelligence-enabled devices, are prohibited on campus unless specifically authorized by the Administration. Such devices may be confiscated and will be returned only to a parent or legal guardian.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine appropriate disciplinary consequences based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.10 TECHNOLOGY & RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School expects all its students to use technology resources, both in and out of the school setting, in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with all applicable laws, the mission of the school and the Catholic teachings.

Internet Access

Christopher Columbus High School intends to make only appropriate curriculum and related resources available to authorized users. This shall be accomplished in the following manner:

- All connections to the Internet, commercial on-line resources or community access information will be through the Christopher Columbus High School Computer Network.

- School faculty shall monitor student computer and tablet use, providing assistance or taking corrective action when necessary.

Chatting, Blogging, and Mail Usage

- E-mail is restricted to appropriate communications. Students are not permitted to e-mail the entire school or an entire class without permission from the Administration.
- Each student is assigned an individual Google email account that ends in @columbushs.com. All email communication between the student and his or her instructors or the the school Administration must be transmitted using the student's @columbushs.com account. The student will be held responsible for any information or assignment sent via their email account.
- Instant messaging is prohibited on campus except as part of an assigned, in-class activity that is supervised by faculty or the Administration.
- To ensure a safe and secure digital learning environment, our school employs an email protection solution to monitor student emails. This system is designed to safeguard our students from inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and other potential online threats.

Google Add On Services

As part of our commitment to providing enhanced educational experiences, our school will be utilizing Google Add-On Services. These services are designed to support student learning through collaborative tools and resources. The school will provide consent for students to use these Google services, which may include tools like Gemini, Google Earth, Google Arts and Culture, and NotebookLM. We believe that these tools will enhance our students' learning experiences and prepare them for a digital future

These Google Add-On Services are an Additional Service not covered by our organization's Google Workspace for Education agreement. This means that this service may collect and use information for the purposes described in Google's [Privacy Notice](#) and the terms that apply to this service.

Apple Devices

Christopher Columbus High School requires all students to have both school-leased Apple devices for regular use in class and, outside of class, to further expand and enhance their learning and conduct scholarly research.

- Apple devices are to be leased from the school and continue to be the property of the school for the years the student is at Columbus.
- Users are entirely responsible for backing up their own data on iCloud and/or Google Drive. Lost or damaged data is not the school's responsibility. All school-leased Apple devices must be in the school-issued Apple devices case.
- Students may personalize the Apple devices case, but in a manner that is not offensive to school, others or in any way affects the Apple devices.
- Audio should be turned off or on silent unless required for the activity being conducted.
- Any audio or video recording may be done only with prior permissions of all parties being recorded.
- The school reserves the right to remove any software, game, app or device function from an Apple device that may be considered inappropriate or impedes the educational purpose of the Apple devices program.

6.11 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & RESPONSIBLE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence refers to systems that simulate human decision-making processes without direct human intervention. These systems include chatbots, machine learning algorithms, and automated tools. Generative Artificial Intelligence refers to technology that creates content including text, images, video, and computer code by identifying patterns in large quantities and training data, and then creating original material that has similar characteristics. These AI tools have great potential but also have potential risks and ethical implications. Christopher Columbus High School recognizes the

growing impact of AI on education and this policy aims to guide our students in the responsible and ethical use of AI within our community.

By upholding academic integrity and responsibly using AI, students develop ethical values, maintain credibility, and cultivate essential skills for lifelong learning. For more details, please refer to our complete AI policy [here](#).

6.12 ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY POLICY

Christopher Columbus High School is committed to fostering academic excellence, personal responsibility, and integrity. Academic honesty is essential to the educational mission of the school and the development of students as ethical leaders. Students are expected to complete their own work, accurately represent their efforts, and comply with all academic expectations established by their teachers and the school.

Academic dishonesty may occur through traditional means or through the use of technology, artificial intelligence tools, electronic devices, digital platforms, or other unauthorized resources.

Academic Integrity Violations

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism, including copying or presenting another person's ideas, words, work, or intellectual property as one's own;
- Submitting work obtained from the internet, another student, a commercial service, or any other source without proper attribution or authorization;
- Submitting work created wholly or partially by artificial intelligence, machine-learning tools, automated writing platforms, or other technology without the authorization of the teacher;
- Using artificial intelligence tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Copilot, Grammarly AI, or similar technologies, in a manner inconsistent with teacher instructions, course requirements, or academic integrity expectations;
- Having, using, or attempting to use unauthorized notes, books, calculators, electronic devices, websites, applications, or other aids during an assessment;
- Using a cell phone, smart watch, smart glasses, artificial intelligence device, or other electronic device during a testing session without authorization;
- Receiving, possessing, sharing, transmitting, photographing, recording, storing, or distributing test questions, answer keys, or other assessment materials without authorization;
- Giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on assignments, projects, homework, quizzes, tests, papers, or examinations;
- Attempting to alter, falsify, forge, or misrepresent academic records, grades, assignments, signatures, attendance records, or other school documents;
- Providing another student with work to copy or complete as his own;
- Collaborating with another student on an assignment, assessment, or project when independent work is required;
- Any other conduct determined by the Administration to constitute academic dishonesty.

Smart glasses, including Meta AI glasses and similar wearable technology devices, are prohibited on campus unless specifically authorized by the Administration.

Investigation and Academic Consequences

Students suspected of academic dishonesty may be referred to the Academic Dean, a Dean of Students, a teacher, or other school administrator for investigation.

If a violation is confirmed, the student may receive a grade of zero for the assignment, assessment, project, examination, or academic work involved. Students found responsible for academic dishonesty may not be permitted to make up the assignment or recover academic credit for the affected work.

Academic integrity violations are cumulative and may be considered throughout a student's enrollment at Christopher Columbus High School. Prior violations may be considered when determining appropriate academic or disciplinary consequences for subsequent offenses.

Disciplinary Consequences

In addition to academic consequences, students may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

- Parent conferences;
- Detention;
- Disciplinary probation;
- Suspension;
- Loss of leadership positions, honors, awards, or extracurricular privileges;
- Removal from honor societies or ineligibility for future membership; and,
- Expulsion or a request to withdraw in cases of repeated or serious violations.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to investigate alleged violations, determine whether academic dishonesty has occurred, and impose appropriate academic consequences, disciplinary measures, probationary conditions, loss of privileges, suspension, requests for withdrawal, or expulsion based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

6.13 DISCIPLINARY PHILOSOPHY

Christopher Columbus High School believes that discipline is an essential component of the educational and faith formation process. Consistent with the mission of the school and the values of Catholic and Marist education, discipline is intended to promote personal growth, responsibility, accountability, and respect for others.

The purpose of disciplinary action is not merely punitive, but educational and formative. Students are encouraged to learn from mistakes, accept responsibility for their actions, repair harm when appropriate, and develop the character necessary to become faith-filled leaders and responsible citizens.

When appropriate, disciplinary interventions may include restorative practices designed to strengthen relationships, promote reconciliation, and support the well-being of the school community. The school reserves the right to determine the disciplinary response most appropriate to the circumstances of each case, taking into consideration the student's conduct, disciplinary history, level of maturity, impact on the school community, and commitment to personal growth.

All disciplinary decisions shall be guided by the mission of Christopher Columbus High School and the principles of Brotherhood, Faith, and Scholarship.

6.14 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Students are under the supervision of the Administration and Faculty while on school property and while participating in school-sponsored activities. Students are expected to comply with all school policies, classroom expectations, and directives of school personnel.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the mission, philosophy, and values of Christopher Columbus High School and the teachings of the Catholic faith whenever they are on campus, participating in school-sponsored activities, or representing the school in any capacity.

This policy applies to student conduct occurring on or off campus, during school-sponsored activities, through electronic communications, social media, artificial intelligence platforms, and other digital

technologies when such conduct affects the safety, welfare, reputation, educational environment, mission of the school, or members of the school community.

Because the school cannot anticipate every form of misconduct, the Administration reserves the right to impose disciplinary consequences for conduct that is inconsistent with the mission, values, policies, expectations, or best interests of Christopher Columbus High School.

Detentions

Detention is a disciplinary consequence that may require a student to remain after school, report to a Dean's Office, perform a service-based assignment, or complete another disciplinary activity as determined by the Administration. Failure to report to detention or comply with detention requirements may result in additional disciplinary action, including suspension.

Loss of Privileges

Students may lose privileges, including participation in extracurricular activities, athletics, school-sponsored events, parking privileges, leadership positions, or other activities as a result of disciplinary violations. The duration and scope of such restrictions shall be determined by the Administration.

Disciplinary Points System

The school may utilize a disciplinary point system to monitor student conduct and assess the severity of infractions. Points may be used to determine appropriate disciplinary consequences, including detentions, disciplinary probation, parent conferences, and other interventions.

The number of points assigned to an infraction may be used to recommend disciplinary consequences. The Deans of Students shall determine the appropriate consequence based on the specific circumstances of each incident.

Disciplinary Probation

Disciplinary Probation serves as a formal written warning to a student and his Parent/guardians regarding conduct concerns. Students placed on disciplinary probation are expected to demonstrate immediate and sustained improvement in conduct and compliance with school expectations.

All decisions regarding disciplinary probation, its conditions, and its duration shall be made at the discretion of the Administration.

Administrative Review

Students placed on Academic Probation, Disciplinary Probation, or who otherwise fail to meet the academic, conduct, attendance, or behavioral expectations of the school may be subject to administrative review at the conclusion of any grading period or semester.

Following review, the Administration may impose additional conditions, extend probationary status, require specific interventions, or determine that continued enrollment is not in the best interest of the student or school community.

Suspension

Students may be assigned either In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension, as determined by the Administration.

In-School Suspension shall be served on campus under school supervision. Out-of-School Suspension shall require the student to remain off campus for the duration of the suspension.

The Administration shall determine whether academic work missed during a suspension may be made up and under what conditions. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with teachers regarding missed assignments.

Parents/guardians will be notified of all suspensions and provided information regarding re-admittance procedures when applicable.

Expulsion or Request to Withdraw

Expulsion or a request for withdrawal from Christopher Columbus High School is a serious disciplinary measure and may be imposed when the Administration determines that a student's conduct, behavior, academic standing, attendance, or continued enrollment is inconsistent with the mission, standards, expectations, or best interests of the school community.

All expulsions and requests for withdrawal are subject to approval by the Principal.

Reasons for suspension, expulsion, or a request to withdraw may include, but are not limited to:

- Serious misconduct on campus or at a school-sponsored activity;
- Misconduct while traveling to or from school or school-sponsored events;
- Insubordination or failure to comply with the directives of school personnel;
- Fighting, bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threats;
- Truancy, excessive tardiness, or poor attendance;
- Academic dishonesty;
- Defacement or destruction of school property;
- Theft or possession of stolen property;
- Possession, use, sale, distribution, or association with drugs, alcohol, nicotine products, vaping devices, controlled substances, or related paraphernalia;
- Possession or use of a weapon or dangerous object;
- Gang-related activity or behavior;
- Unauthorized recording, possession, transmission, posting, or distribution of photographs, videos, audio recordings, or electronic content involving members of the school community;
- Possession of pornographic, violent, sacrilegious, or otherwise offensive material;
- Criminal conduct or behavior inconsistent with the mission and values of the school;
- Conduct that endangers the health, safety, welfare, or well-being of students, faculty, staff, or visitors;
- Conduct that substantially disrupts the educational environment or harms the reputation of the school;
- Repeated or serious violations of school policies;
- Any other conduct deemed by the Administration to be inconsistent with the mission, philosophy, expectations, or best interests of Christopher Columbus High School.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply all disciplinary policies and to determine the appropriate consequences, interventions, loss of privileges, probationary conditions, suspensions, requests for withdrawal, or expulsions based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

7. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

7.1 CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Christopher Columbus High School offers a variety of [clubs](#), organizations, and extracurricular activities designed to promote student involvement, leadership, service, fellowship, and personal growth.

Membership in clubs and organizations is open to students who satisfy the eligibility requirements established by the school and the sponsoring organization. Participation may be subject to academic, attendance, conduct, financial, or other eligibility standards established by the Administration.

The school reserves the right to establish, modify, suspend, or discontinue any club, organization, activity, or membership requirement at its discretion.

Among the school's student leadership organizations is the Student Activities Committee (S.A.C.), which plays a vital role in fostering school spirit, strengthening the bonds of brotherhood, and enhancing student life at Christopher Columbus High School. Guided by the Marist values of service, leadership, humility, and community, S.A.C. plans and supports school events, traditions, and activities that promote student engagement and school pride. The Student Activities Committee (S.A.C.) members are elected by the student body and appointed by the S.A.C. Director in accordance with established procedures. Members are expected to serve as positive role models and uphold the mission and values of Christopher Columbus High School.

For a current list of [clubs](#), organizations, and extracurricular opportunities, students and parents should visit the [Christopher Columbus High School website](#).

7.2 ATHLETICS

Christopher Columbus High School is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and the Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC). The school sponsors a variety of interscholastic athletic programs, including, but not limited to, Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Olympic Weightlifting, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Water Polo, and Wrestling.

Participation in athletics is considered a privilege and not a right. Student-athletes are expected to serve as ambassadors of Christopher Columbus High School and represent the school with integrity, respect, sportsmanship, and conduct consistent with Brotherhood, Faith, and Scholarship both on and off the field of play.

For a complete list of sports offered, team schedules, and FHSAA State Championships, students and parents can visit our [Athletics](#) page on the Christopher Columbus High School Website.

Academic Eligibility

Student-athletes must satisfy all eligibility requirements established by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), the school, and any applicable governing organization.

Under current FHSAA requirements, student-athletes must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 to participate in interscholastic athletics. Additional eligibility requirements may apply to specific grade levels, athletic programs, or activities. Students and parents are responsible for complying with all applicable FHSAA eligibility standards, including any academic contracts, summer school requirements, or other conditions established by the FHSAA.

Participation Requirements and Assumption of Risk

Participation in athletics, conditioning programs, open gyms, tryouts, practices, competitions, camps, clinics, and other athletic activities involves inherent risks of injury, illness, disability, or death. While the school takes reasonable precautions to promote student safety, it cannot eliminate all risks associated with athletic participation.

Prior to participation in any athletic activity, students must complete all required forms, including any Parent Consent and Release of Liability forms, medical authorizations, and physical examination

documentation required by the school, the FHSAA, or other governing organizations.

By permitting their child to participate in athletics, parents/guardians acknowledge and accept the inherent risks associated with athletic participation and agree to comply with all participation requirements established by the school.

The school is not responsible for injuries, damages, or losses arising from participation in unsanctioned athletic activities, leagues, camps, programs, or events that are not sponsored, supervised, or approved by Christopher Columbus High School.

Administrative Discretion

Participation in athletics may be restricted, suspended, or revoked due to academic, disciplinary, attendance, behavioral, financial, medical, or eligibility concerns, as determined by the Administration, Athletic Department, or applicable governing organization.

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply all athletic policies and eligibility requirements and to determine participation status based on the specific facts and circumstances of each situation.

7.3 NAME, IMAGE, LIKENESS (NIL)

Christopher Columbus High School complies with all applicable rules, regulations, and eligibility requirements established by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), state law, and other governing organizations regarding student-athlete Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) activities.

Student-athletes are solely responsible for ensuring that any NIL activity complies with all applicable laws, FHSAA regulations, and eligibility requirements. Participation in NIL activities shall not interfere with a student's academic responsibilities, attendance obligations, athletic commitments, conduct expectations, or compliance with school policies.

Neither Christopher Columbus High School, the Archdiocese of Miami, nor any employee, coach, administrator, or representative of the school shall be responsible for arranging, negotiating, securing, facilitating, or providing legal, financial, tax, or business advice regarding NIL opportunities, contracts, endorsements, or compensation. Students and parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to seek independent legal, financial, and professional advice before entering into any NIL-related agreement.

Students may not use the name, logo, trademarks, mascot, uniforms, facilities, photographs, intellectual property, or other identifying marks of Christopher Columbus High School, the Archdiocese of Miami, or any affiliated school or organization in connection with NIL activities, endorsements, advertisements, promotions, social media content, commercial ventures, or other business activities without the prior written authorization of the school.

Students may not imply that Christopher Columbus High School, the Archdiocese of Miami, or any school employee endorses, sponsors, approves, or is affiliated with any NIL activity, product, service, business, or commercial enterprise.

Students participating in NIL activities remain subject to all school policies, including policies regarding conduct, athletics, social media, academic eligibility, attendance, dress code, and use of school property.

Any unauthorized use of the school's name, trademarks, logos, mascot, intellectual property, uniforms, facilities, or other identifying marks may result in disciplinary action and may subject the student and/or parent/guardian to legal action or other remedies available to the school.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to interpret and apply this policy and to determine whether any NIL-related activity, agreement, advertisement, endorsement, communication, or conduct is inconsistent with the mission, values, policies, reputation, or best interests of Christopher Columbus High School.

7.4 SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

Christopher Columbus High School sponsors a variety of educational, athletic, social, spiritual, and extracurricular activities throughout the school year. Only activities specifically organized, approved, and supervised by the school shall be considered school-sponsored events.

The school does not sponsor, supervise, control, or assume responsibility for parties, gatherings, trips, social functions, or other activities conducted at private residences or locations not approved by the school. School-sponsored events shall be identified through official school communications, publications, calendars, or written notices.

By enrolling a student at Christopher Columbus High School, parents/guardians acknowledge and agree that the school shall not be responsible for any claims, injuries, damages, losses, or liabilities arising from attendance at private parties, unofficial gatherings, or other non-school-sponsored activities.

Students remain subject to school policies and disciplinary procedures for conduct occurring on or off campus when such conduct affects the safety, welfare, reputation, educational environment, or mission of the school community.

Christopher Columbus High School is not responsible for student participation in unsanctioned clubs, organizations, athletic programs, camps, leagues, competitions, or other activities not sponsored, approved, or supervised by the school. Participation in such activities is undertaken at the student's and family's own risk.

Administrative Discretion

The Administration reserves the right to determine whether an event, activity, gathering, organization, or program is school-sponsored and to impose disciplinary consequences when student conduct associated with non-school-sponsored activities is inconsistent with school policies or expectations.

7.5 PARENTS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

The Parents Activities Association (PAA) supports the mission of Christopher Columbus High School by fostering positive relationships among parents, faculty, staff, and the school community.

The PAA coordinates social, educational, spiritual, and community-building activities designed to strengthen parent involvement and support the educational experience of Columbus students.

Funds generated through PAA-sponsored activities are used to support school programs, purchase equipment, enhance student opportunities, and address other needs as determined by the school.

The PAA may also sponsor presentations, workshops, lectures, retreats, or other programs that promote the religious, educational, and personal growth of parents and families.

Participation in PAA activities is voluntary and subject to school policies and procedures.

7.6 FUNDRAISING

No student, parent/guardian, faculty member, staff member, club, organization, team, or other group may solicit funds, conduct fundraising activities, collect donations, sell goods or services, or otherwise represent Christopher Columbus High School in any fundraising effort unless such activity has received

prior written approval from the Principal, President, or their designee.

All fundraising activities conducted in the name of Christopher Columbus High School must comply with school policies, applicable laws, and any guidelines established by the Administration.

The Administration reserves the right to approve, deny, modify, suspend, or terminate any fundraising activity at its discretion.

7.7 GENERAL RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR SCHOOL-AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES

As a condition of participation in school-affiliated activities and as part of the Parent-Student Handbook acknowledgment process, students and parents/guardians acknowledge and agree to the following General Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement. Acceptance of the Parent-Student Handbook constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of the terms contained in this section.

1. Activities Covered

This General Release and Waiver applies to all student participation in school-affiliated activities throughout the school year, whether directly supervised by Christopher Columbus High School ("School") personnel or offered through the School by third parties.

These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Sports teams and athletic events (including contact sports);
- Clubs, organizations, honor societies, and extracurricular programs;
- Field trips, class trips, local and out-of-state travel;
- Retreats, religious activities, and service-learning experiences;
- Service projects and mission work;
- Domestic and international travel programs;
- Activities promoted or facilitated by the School but operated by third-party providers, including but not limited to the Externship Program; and,
- Transportation associated with any of the above activities.

Participation in these activities is voluntary, and all students and families are expected to comply with school policies, rules, and expectations.

2. Assumption of Risk

I/We understand that participation in these activities may expose the Student to inherent risks, including physical injury, illness (including communicable diseases), property loss, or other unforeseen dangers, including risks associated with transportation and travel. I/We voluntarily assume full responsibility for such risks, whether or not specifically foreseeable.

3. Release of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I/We release, hold harmless, and discharge Christopher Columbus High School, the Marist Brothers, affiliated entities, and their respective officers, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, causes of action, liabilities, losses, or demands arising from or relating to the Student's participation in school-affiliated activities.

This release includes claims arising from ordinary negligence but does not apply to gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

4. Medical Authorization

In the event of an accident, illness, or medical emergency, I/We authorize the School and its representatives to obtain emergency medical treatment for the Student when deemed necessary. I/We accept full responsibility for any resulting medical expenses and release the School from liability arising from such decisions.

5. Indemnification

I/We agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School and its affiliates from any claim, action, loss, or liability arising out of the Student's participation in school-affiliated activities, whether asserted by the Student, family members, or third parties.

6. Transportation and Travel

I/We understand that transportation may occur through School-owned vehicles, charter buses, commercial carriers, parent or staff vehicles, student-operated vehicles, carpools, or other means. I/We acknowledge and accept the risks associated with transportation and travel and release the School from liability for transportation-related incidents to the fullest extent permitted by law.

7. Code of Conduct

Participation in school-affiliated activities is a privilege. Students are expected to comply with all school policies, behavioral expectations, and activity-specific requirements. The School reserves the right to remove a student from any activity, including travel-based activities, at the family's expense when conduct violations occur.

8. Media Release

I/We grant permission for the School to use the Student's name, image, likeness, voice, photographs, or video recordings in school publications, promotional materials, websites, social media platforms, and other school-related communications unless otherwise prohibited by law or school policy.

9. Binding Effect and Severability

This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

10. Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

11. Acknowledgment and Acceptance

By electronically acknowledging the Parent-Student Handbook, I/We acknowledge that I/We have read, understand, and agree to the terms of this General Release, Waiver of Liability, and Indemnity

Agreement. I/We further understand that the School may require additional activity-specific permission forms, releases, medical authorizations, or acknowledgments as a condition of participation in particular activities, events, retreats, athletic programs, or travel opportunities.